

The International
apple computer
users' magazine

Windfall

Volume 2, No. 7 January 1983 £1

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on floppies, hard discs
and pseudo discs

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keeps tabs on cashflow

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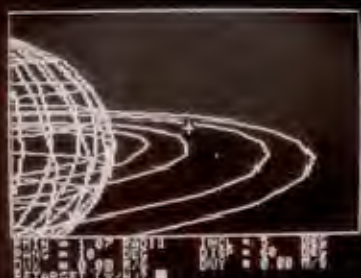
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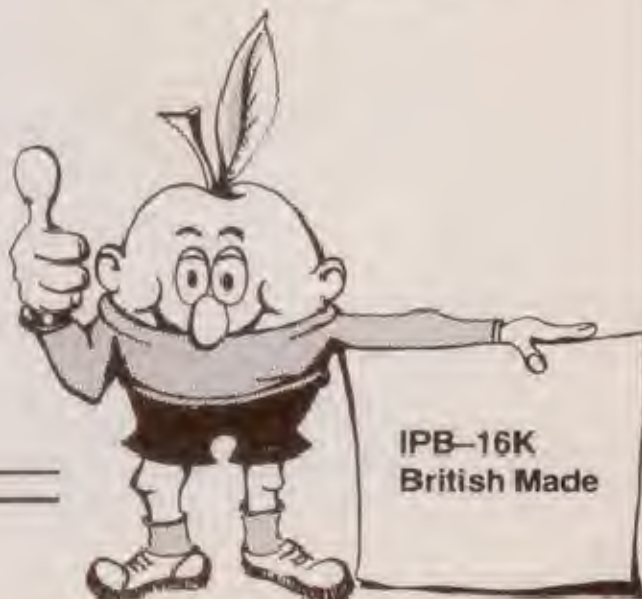
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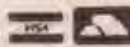
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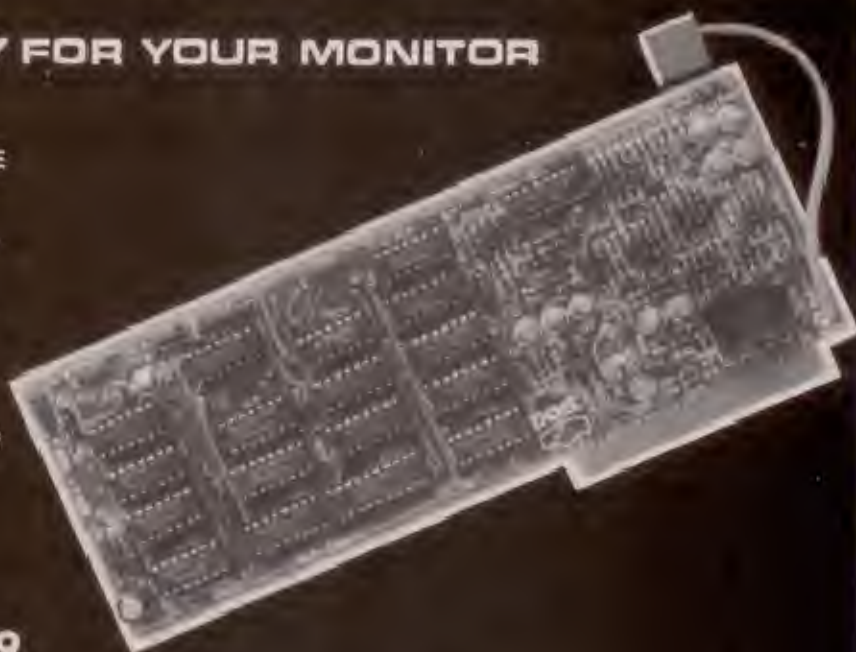
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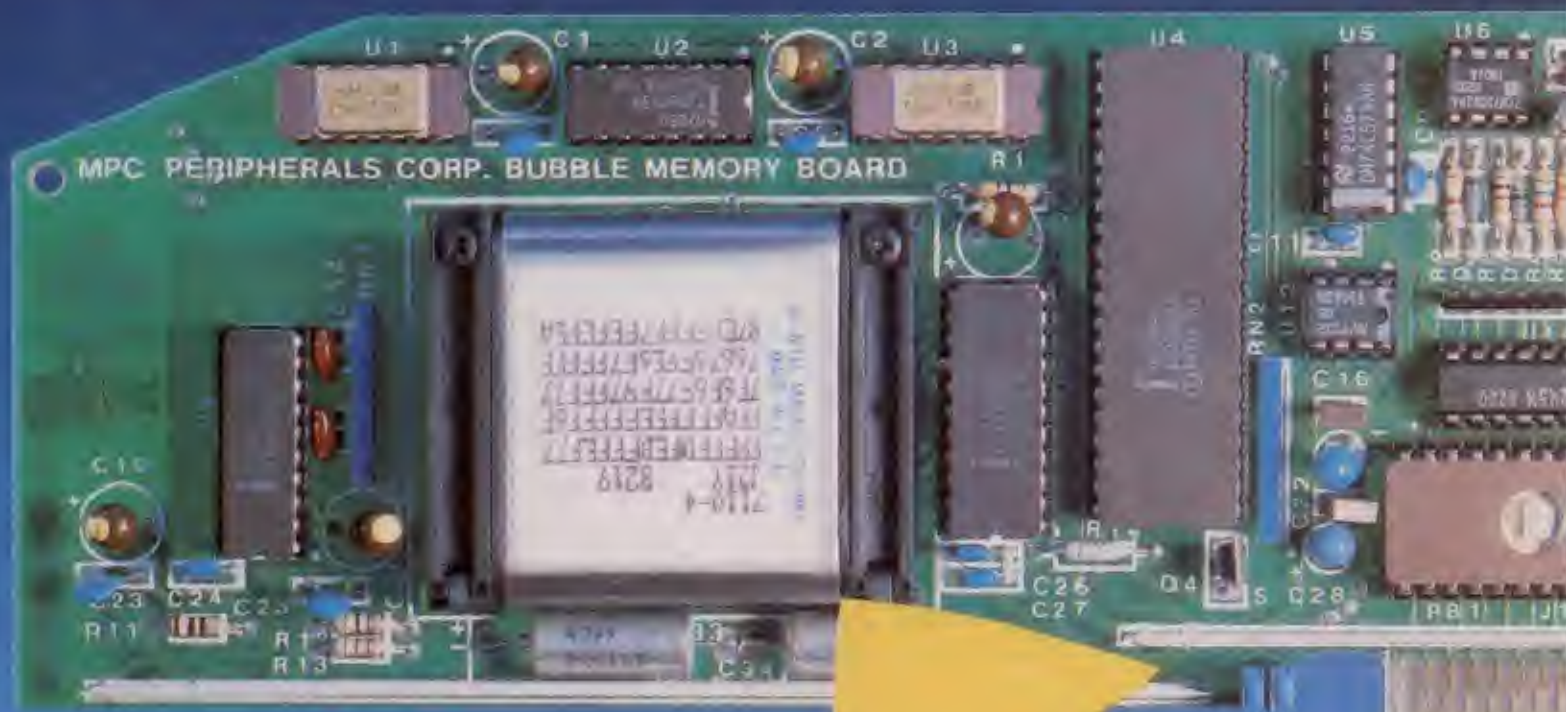


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WHAT'S NEWS...

By David Creasey



The games kings fight for crown

COMPUTER games fever has been gripping the USA. In gladiatorial style, creators of some of the most popular disc based games have been battling against each other in a marathon knockout contest over coast-to-coast TV.

Among them are writers of Apple games that have been highly rated in *Windfall*. They include Dan Gorlan (*Choplifter*), David Snelder (*David's Midnight Magic*), Jay Zipnick (*Pigpen*), Ken Williams (*Threshold*) and Paul Stevenson (*Swashbuckler*).

The contest was launched on an unsuspecting America at a no-expense-spared party held in the glittering, legendary Sands Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. *Windfall's* Derek Meakin, who was in the gambling capital to cover the world's biggest computer trade show, reports that most of the contestants were teenagers – and rich teenagers at that. Their output is so prolific they're well on the way to becoming millionaires.

Mark Turnell, who bought his first computer at 15 and quickly designed top-selling *Free Fall*, *Beer Run* and *Sneakers* for the Apple, now drives a Porsche 924.

His 19-year-old friend Dan Thompson (*Twerps*, *Lemmings*) when he isn't conjuring up new games lives a life of luxury, alternating between gambling, skiing and beating up the freeway in his Trans AM.

A name to note

AS it comes naturally for Americans to do everything on the largest possible scale, the opulence of the event came as no surprise. Reports Meakin: "What was unexpected, however, was the identity of the hosts – a software distribution company which only came into existence little over a year ago.

"Not that they should have had any problem picking up the tab afterwards. Their sales are growing at the phenomenal rate of 20 per cent a month, and their last month's figures topped 27 per cent. Now they are planning to open an office in the UK and expect to repeat their success over here.

"The name of this high-flying newcomer is Software Distributors. Remember it. We should be hearing a lot more about them before long."



Steve Wozniak (right) is welcomed onto ALS's board of directors by engineering vice-president Chuck Mauro.

CP/M Plus for Apple

A BIG boost for CP/M on the Apple is expected following a deal signed between Advanced Logic Systems and Tunbridge Wells-based Vector Ltd.

They are setting up a new company in Belgium called Vector Advanced Logic, and their first product – announced in Las Vegas – is the first plug-in CP/M interface card with CP/M Plus, the newest and most powerful version of CP/M, for the Apple.

Unimaginatively called simply CP/M Card, it will retail in the USA for \$399, and will cost around 10 per cent more in the UK to cover shipping costs. First supplies are expected in the middle of this month.

The card offers an additional 64k of memory, for a total of 112k fully usable by CP/M Plus in a 48k Apple. It has a 6 MHz Z80B processor, allowing users to run CP/M applications at up to three times faster than with other CP/M cards.

Advanced Logic Systems have also announced a further coup – the recruitment of Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak to their board of directors. "Steve's invest-

ment in our company is a note of confidence in our future success", said ALS president Dick Ribas.

And Steve himself said he was "delighted to be able to contribute to the research and direction of products that support Apple's product line".

Comdex records

SUCCESS stories were legion at the Las Vegas computer show, Comdex. Even the show itself broke new records. During four frenetic days it attracted more than 50,000 manufacturers, distributors and dealers.

The number of exhibitors – 1,106 – was also an all-time record for a computer industry trade show. And next November's event will be even bigger. Determined not to miss the boat, exhibitors have already booked 4,300 stand units, completely filling the massive Las Vegas Convention Center as well as substantial areas of four adjoining hotels.

New products for the Apple were well in evidence, much to the delight of UK Apple distributors Pete and Pam Fisher, who had an energetic buying spree.

Corking product

APPLE has manufacturing plants in Dallas, Los Angeles, Singapore and Cork. All the company's 240 volt machines (for the European market) are produced in Cork, where an Apple comes off the production line every 20 seconds, according to Apple's Dave King.

The machines are individually tested for four days before release. "We have a very reliable product," he said. "Less than two per cent of our annual turnover is devoted to maintenance – and when something does go wrong the average time to repair an Apple is 2.5 minutes."

Currently 550,000 Apples have been sold (51,752 in the UK) and in two months' time the company expects to become the first in history to have achieved a \$1 billion turnover within five years of its inception.

Apple's current projections anticipate a \$4 billion turnover by 1985. More than 750 companies now design and build hardware add ons for the Apple II and III and more than 2,500 companies produce applications software for the machines.

Software for Apple III

THERE was more good news at the Las Vegas meeting for those Apple III users who have been complaining about the lack of software for Apple's flagship machine.

Software writers and manufacturers of peripherals were offered valuable incentives and tools to help them create new products to run on the Apple III.

Apple executive Paul Dali told them: "We are out to show the many advantages of developing products for the Apple III. We realise the importance of providing developers with the best tools possible and of dealing fairly and openly with their needs."

Two hundred people sat down to lunch to hear about the enhanced capabilities of the Apple III. They were the first to hear of new products, like the high density disc drives UniFile and DuFile, which are

reported on Page 39.

And Tim Gill, head of Quark Engineering, told them about a new interpreter switcher program, Catalyst, which he has developed. This allows an Apple III user to move rapidly from application to application, utilising the power and speed of ProFile. Another of its advantages is that it maintains the copy protection features of programs stored on the hard disc.

Nestar's Harry Saal described his company's recent breakthrough that allows the Apple III to connect to Nestar networks. A special driver adds the Apple III to Nestar's Cluster/One Model A and the Plan 4000 network systems. Both systems provide local networking capabilities and shared mass storage for both the Apple II and III.

The guests left clutching lots of goodies and offers that should get them thinking hard about how they can turn the capabilities of the III to their own advantage. When the results come through, you'll be reading about them first in Windfall.

Micro matchmaker

AN enterprising Jersey company has come up with an ingenious scheme to harness programming talent and market it to businesses requiring tailor-made packages.

It is a type of micro match-making scheme thought up by Terry Crouch of Number One Computers.

He is compiling a register of Apple enthusiasts and plans to bring them into contact with other users who know what they want their Apples to do, but who lack the time or in-depth knowledge to do it themselves.

Wouldbe part or full time programmers, systems people or Visicalc experts who register with The Apple Corps before the end of this month can join free of charge (subsequent registrations will be levied a £5 fee.)

Anyone wanting to meet people on the register has to pay an initial fee of £25 for the details of the six most appropriate names. Subsequent enquiries cost £18.

"We are looking for the enthusiast who wants something to do and would like to

earn some money in the process," says Crouch.

"On the other side we have Apple users in business who don't want to get down to the technicalities of programming but who want their Apple to do something that they can't buy off the shelf.

"They want a specific application but they don't want to work it out themselves and they don't want it to cost a lot.

"At present if you went to a local consultant it would cost you £25 for one hour's advice. This way you get a choice of six consultants, all who have specialist knowledge of your field."

People on the register will be notified if their details are passed on – and will also be allowed to specify any organisation or individual to whom their details should not be sent.

Light fantastic

A UNIQUE long range local area network system which incorporates fibre optic cables has been developed by Symbiotic.

The company MD, Rodney Cox, says it is the fastest system available "and will remain so unless someone develops one that can beat the speed of light."

Called Symbnet, the system can cover a range of up to nine kilometres between any two Apples on the network (four Apples could cover 36km). It incorporates a Winchester 5¼in Symbfile hard disc and uses a high intensity semi-conductor laser to transmit data.

The company has Symbnets at 30 test sites and will start meeting orders this month.

Cables can be laid by the shortest route, as opposed to the more conventional use of flat ribbon or coaxial cable which is sensitive to electrical noise from fluorescent lights and photocopiers.

"Apples can be plugged into the system anywhere you can see a cable," says Cox, "and the use of fibre optics ensures that you can't lose the data signal – as it needs the force of gravity before you can bend the light."

"The government is investing £25 million in fibre optic development and Britain is a world leader in the field. We intend to see that it stays there," he added.

Big screen, small screen

YOU'VE read the book. You've seen the film. Now play the computer adventure! The transition from silver screen to computer screen is a natural one for adventure movies, according to one of the leading creators of computer adventure games, Roberta Williams.

Roberta, who devised the classic Wizard and Princess which we review on Page 30, has been working on a Sierra On-Line game based on The Dark Crystal – the new fantasy film from Muppet creator Jim Henson.

"The film making techniques and special effects used in The Dark Crystal are revolutionary," said Roberta. "None of the actors are human: they're all creations of Henson's."

"A computer adventure is a natural extension of the movie, a fantasy revolving around the age-old battle between good and evil."

"Henson's animation techniques are a first, and so is Sierra On-Line's adventure game. It's the first hi-res computer adventure strictly based on a feature film."

Through logic, luck and a series of commands, the computer adventurer guides the Gelfling hero Jen to his destiny – the return of a shard to the Dark Crystal before the planet Thra's three suns align. If he fails, the evil reign of the Skesis will continue forever. If he succeeds, goodness will return to the planet.

"I'm thrilled to be working on this project," says Roberta.

So how long will it be before the industry turns full circle and starts making movies based on successful computer games?

Big slice of the cake

APPLE will have 60 per cent of the personal computer market within the next two to three years. That optimistic prediction comes from a man who knows more than most about the company's future plans – Mark Wozniak, brother of Apple



Roberta Williams... "I'm thrilled"

founder Steve Wozniak.

And he says that IBM – still to launch its personal computer in the UK – will be the second biggest seller, with Tandy trailing in third place.

Mark's surprising prediction, which flies in the face of growing industry criticism of Apple's delay in bringing out any new products, shows the company is unworried by the continual spate of new computers appearing on the marketplace.

What Apple have up their corporate sleeve is the subject of growing speculation in the American computer press. One industry analyst, Michele Preston, is widely reported as confirming this January as the launch date for two new Apple micros. One she described as the company's "high end product" – so different from existing computers that few dealers would be qualified to carry it. The other would take over from the Apple II as the company's volume leader.

If you want to know what's really going to happen – watch this space!

Apple link to IBM

WATCH out for a hardware/software interface that allows Apples to communicate with IBM mainframe computers – a development that will be welcomed by many large businesses.

The device, a 3270 cluster controller emulator, enables an Apple to emulate the functions of an IBM terminal. What this means is that business executives, data processing professionals and other office workers will be able to use the Apple on their desks to take full advantage of mainframe functions such as on-line data entry, inquiry and response, electronic mail, remote database access, and program development. And it can, of

course, provide normal personal computer applications when not in use as a terminal.

The move, announced at a meeting of dealers held in Las Vegas last month, will be a shot in the arm for Apple sales.

The device will be available in a SNA/SDLC (System Network Architecture/Synchronous Data Link Control) version which emulates the IBM 3276 control unit display station, and a BSC (Binary Synchronous Communication) version which emulates the IBM 3271 cluster controller.

The emulator will support up to seven directly-connected Apple computers or a larger number of Apples connected via modems. Printers can be connected either to the emulator directly or to one or more of the Apple computers.

OUT of this world is the best way to explain a hi-res arcade game currently released in the United States and ostensibly written by an alien.

The game is called

2027X<2

and if that leaves you standing, then you're likely to have problems with the instruction manual – it is written entirely in alien text.

Southwestern Data Systems say they wanted the game to allow the Apple user to see things from the alien's point of view, with the earthmen as the aggressors. Part of the game's challenge is to decipher the rules.

The company has sponsored a nationwide competition and is offering prizes for the first person to successfully translate the advertisement for the game and for the first person to translate the complete game package and screens.

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D.B. Master statistics	58.00	66.70
D.B. Master utilities (links with Vista)	58.00	66.70
Desk Top Plan II (while stocks last)	89.00	102.35
Graphmagic (bar graphs, pie charts, etc)	52.00	59.80
Mathsmagic	52.00	59.80
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PFS Report	53.00	60.95
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Vindex	122.00	140.30
Vindex	115.85	133.34
Vindex	93.00	106.95
Vindex	144.00	165.60
Vindex/plai	142.00	163.30
WORD PROCESSING		
Applewriter II	72.00	82.80
Executive Secretary	145.00	166.75
Executive Speller	45.00	51.75
Format 80	200.00	230.00
Pie Writer (40/80 columns)	85.00	97.75
Sensible Speller (New fast print reader)	69.00	79.35
Screenwriter II (70 col w/out 80 col card)	78.00	89.26
SuperText 40/80	109.00	125.35
Wordstar 3.01 (CP/M) (enhanced features)	135.00	155.25
Zorlas	126.00	143.75
PRINTERS		
Epson MX80T-3 (up to 132 col & lines)	299.00	343.85
Epson MX80T-3 (as above & friction drive)	324.00	372.60
Epson MX80T-3 (very hi-res graphics)	359.00	412.85
Epson MX100T-3 (100 cpi & wide carriage)	429.00	493.35

Memomax Tally M1 (25/160 cpi)	385.00	419.75
Nec 8023 (100 cpi & prop. spacing)	299.00	343.85
Silentyte & interface	155.00	182.85
Smith Corona TP-1 (daisy wheel printer)	449.00	516.35

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Airystar Parallel	75.00	86.25
Airystar Serial	89.00	79.35
CP/M Multifunction Card (inc real time clock)	115.00	136.85
Digitek Printmaster (BASIC/CPM/PASCAL)	59.00	79.35
Digitek Printmaster (II with memory mang)	159.00	182.85
Grapples + (Epson/Anadex/Cent/Nec)	98.00	112.70
IPB 16K (Buffer & Serial + par card)	125.00	143.75
MBP 16K (Epson 16K buffer)	96.00	110.40
Worzel 16K (Buffer & graphics interface)	149.00	171.35

80 COLUMN CARDS

Digitek Screenmaster 80	185.00	212.75
U-Term (inc shift mod. & font editor)	115.00	132.25
Vindex Enhancer II	83.00	95.45
Vindex Fonteditor Strip (inc Enhancer II)	48.00	55.20
Vindex Inverse Epson	18.45	21.22
Vindex Utility Disc (inc font editor etc)	24.45	28.12
Vindex Vindexer	169.00	194.35
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Digitek Colour Card (excellent colour on TV)	85.00	109.25
Microvitec colour monitor	275.00	316.25
Microvitec colour card (inc with above)	35.00	40.25
Prince 12" Green screen	105.00	120.75

Zenith 12" Green screen (very good value)

	79.00	90.85
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GRAPHIC UTILITIES & MUSIC

Archie Machine (game designer)	21.45	24.67
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Bit Sirk (Relocom)	245.00	281.75
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Versawriter expansion Pac 1	74.00	77.80
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Amix	14.95	17.19
Electric Drum (creates 2 part music)	18.95	21.79
Fortis (4 voices & 9 octaves)	15.95	18.34
Music Machine 9 Voice (Vista)	69.00	79.35
Music System (Mountain Computer)		
15 Voicel	205.00	235.75
Musik VoxBox	81.00	78.15
S.A.M. (speech synthesis)	75.00	86.25
Zipple Sound Effects & Music Board	56.00	64.40

UTILITIES

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Lisa (Educational system)	68.00	78.20
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Merlin Macie Assembler (editor & utilities)	42.00	48.30
Printographer (supports almost any printer)	27.95	32.14
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Super Krim	67.00	100.05
Tec Computer Handles very large programs	95.00	109.25
The Bug (Assembly language debugger)	38.00	43.70
The Inspector (disc snapper, needs 16K card)	35.00	40.25

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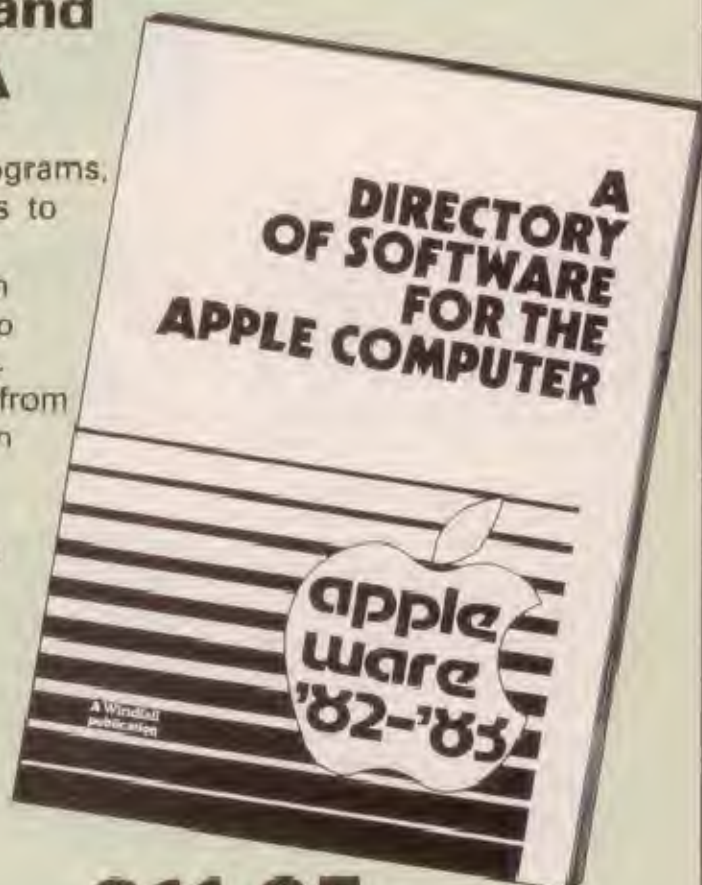
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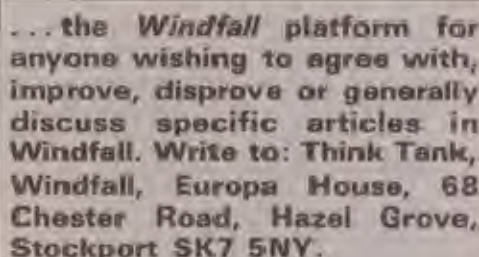
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Fast routine for hi-res clear

The base address of any line on the screen is harder to calculate but is clear from the YCALC routine. Note that changing the value of byte \$3AE to#\$40 will clear page 2.

The YCALC and XCALC routines should be useful in any drawing program to plot points on either screen.

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2 0000 OF FWD 1
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100 0000

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[illegible]

LISA 2.0				LISA 2.0			
0755 11 00	80	ORA (R),Y	(SET COLOUR BACK	0761 05 01	180	LDA Y2	
0756 11 00	81	STA (R),Y		0762 05 01	181	AND #A1	
0757 11 00	82	LDA #0	HOW CLEAR HOLE BYTES	0763 05 01	182	ROL	
0758 11 00	83	STO #0		0764 05 01	183	ROR	
0759 11 00	84	LDOPR1		0765 05 01	184	ADC #+1	
0760 11 00	85	STB (BL,X		0766 05 01	185	STA #+1	
0761 11 00	86	INX		0767 05 01	186	LDA Y2	
0762 11 00	87	OP1 X02	FINISHED END OF LINE	0768 05 01	187	AND #AC0	
0763 11 00	88	BCC LOOP2		0769 05 01	188	LDA #	
0764 11 00	89	LDA #0FE	HOW NEXT PART BYTE	0770 05 01	189	STA #	
0765 11 00	90	TXR		0771 05 01	190	AND #AC0	
0766 11 00	91	LDOPR1		0772 05 01	191	LDA #	
0767 11 00	92	INX	FORCE 1 INTO RMB	0773 05 01	192	STA #	
0768 11 00	93	INX		0774 05 01	193	LDA Y2	
0769 11 00	94	OP1 X02		0775 05 01	194	AND #0	
0770 11 00	95	BCC LOOP4		0776 05 01	195	LDA #AC0	
0771 11 00	96	AND #01,Y		0777 05 01	196	ADC #	
0772 11 00	97	STA (R),Y	LAST BYTE	0778 05 01	197	STA #	
0773 11 00	98	LDA #000	16 BIT COLOUR BACK	0779 05 01	198	AND #AC0	
0774 11 00	99	ORA (R),Y		0780 05 01	199	ADC #	
0775 11 00	100	STA (R),Y		0781 05 01	200	STA #	
0776 11 00	101	DEC Y0		0782 05 01	201	LDA Y2	
0777 11 00	102	LDA Y0	USE IT AS COUNTER	0783 05 01	202	AND #0	
0778 11 00	103	OP1 Y1		0784 05 01	203	LDA #AC0	
0779 11 00	104	BCC LOOP1		0785 05 01	204	ADC #	
0780 11 00	105	END	BACK TO CALLER	0786 05 01	205	STA #	
0781 11 00	106	RTS		0787 05 01	206	AND #AC0	
0782 11 00	107	*****		0788 05 01	207	ADC #	
0783 11 00	108	*****		0789 05 01	208	STA #	
0784 11 00	109	STA #	LDI BYTE	0790 05 01	209	LDA Y2	
0785 11 00	110	TXR	HI BYTE	0791 05 01	210	AND #0	
0786 11 00	111	LDA #2	ADDRESS BY 7 TO 7	0792 05 01	211	LDA #AC0	
0787 11 00	112	STA #02	LOWC BYTES	0793 05 01	212	ADC #	
0788 11 00	113	SEC		0794 05 01	213	STA #	
0789 11 00	114	BCC #02		0795 05 01	214	LDA Y2	
0790 11 00	115	TXR		0796 05 01	215	AND #0	
0791 11 00	116	BCC #02		0797 05 01	216	LDA #AC0	
0792 11 00	117	BCC #02		0798 05 01	217	ADC #	
0793 11 00	118	JMP #02		0799 05 01	218	STA #	
0794 11 00	119	SEC		0800 05 01	219	LDA Y2	
0795 11 00	120	AND #02		0801 05 01	220	AND #0	
0796 11 00	121	AND #02		0802 05 01	221	LDA #AC0	
0797 11 00	122	AND #02		0803 05 01	222	ADC #	
0798 11 00	123	AND #02		0804 05 01	223	STA #	
0799 11 00	124	AND #02		0805 05 01	224	LDA Y2	
0800 11 00	125	AND #02		0806 05 01	225	AND #0	
0801 11 00	126	AND #02		0807 05 01	226	LDA #AC0	
0802 11 00	127	AND #02		0808 05 01	227	ADC #	
0803 11 00	128	AND #02		0809 05 01	228	STA #	
0804 11 00	129	AND #02		0810 05 01	229	LDA Y2	
0805 11 00	130	AND #02		0811 05 01	230	AND #0	
0806 11 00	131	AND #02		0812 05 01	231	LDA #AC0	
0807 11 00	132	AND #02		0813 05 01	232	ADC #	
0808 11 00	133	AND #02		0814 05 01	233	STA #	
0809 11 00	134	AND #02		0815 05 01	234	LDA Y2	
0810 11 00	135	AND #02		0816 05 01	235	AND #0	
0811 11 00	136	AND #02		0817 05 01	236	LDA #AC0	
0812 11 00	137	AND #02		0818 05 01	237	ADC #	
0813 11 00	138	AND #02		0819 05 01	238	STA #	
0814 11 00	139	AND #02		0820 05 01	239	LDA Y2	
0815 11 00	140	AND #02		0821 05 01	240	AND #0	
0816 11 00	141	AND #02		0822 05 01	241	LDA #AC0	
0817 11 00	142	AND #02		0823 05 01	242	ADC #	
0818 11 00	143	AND #02		0824 05 01	243	STA #	
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0820 11 00	145	AND #02		0826 05 01	245	AND #0	
0821 11 00	146	AND #02		0827 05 01	246	LDA #AC0	
0822 11 00	147	AND #02		0828 05 01	247	ADC #	
0823 11 00	148	AND #02		0829 05 01	248	STA #	
0824 11 00	149	AND #02		0830 05 01	249	LDA Y2	
0825 11 00	150	AND #02		0831 05 01	250	AND #0	
0826 11 00	151	AND #02		0832 05 01	251	LDA #AC0	
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0828 11 00	153	AND #02		0834 05 01	253	STA #	
0829 11 00	154	AND #02		0835 05 01	254	LDA Y2	
0830 11 00	155	AND #02		0836 05 01	255	AND #0	
0831 11 00	156	AND #02		0837 05 01	256	LDA #AC0	
0832 11 00	157	AND #02		0838 05 01	257	ADC #	
0833 11 00	158	AND #02		0839 05 01	258	STA #	
0834 11 00	159	AND #02		0840 05 01	259	LDA Y2	
0835 11 00	160	AND #02		0841 05 01	260	AND #0	
0836 11 00	161	AND #02		0842 05 01	261	LDA #AC0	
0837 11 00	162	AND #02		0843 05 01	262	ADC #	
0838 11 00	163	AND #02		0844 05 01	263	STA #	
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0840 11 00	165	AND #02		0846 05 01	265	AND #0	
0841 11 00	166	AND #02		0847 05 01	266	LDA #AC0	
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0880 11 00	205	AND #02		0886 05 01	305	AND #0	
0881 11 00	206	AND #02		0887 05 01	306	LDA #AC0	
0882 11 00	207	AND #02		0888 05 01	307	ADC #	
0883 11 00	208	AND #02		0889 05 01	308	STA #	
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0885 11 00	210	AND #02		0891 05 01	310	AND #0	
0886 11 00	211	AND #02		0892 05 01	311	LDA #AC0	
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0892 11 00	217	AND #02		0898 05 01	317	ADC #	
0893 11 00	218	AND #02		0899 05 01	318	STA #	
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0895 11 00	220	AND #02		0901 05 01	320	AND #0	
0896 11 00	221	AND #02		0902 05 01	321	LDA #AC0	
0897 11 00	222	AND #02		0903 05 01	322	ADC #	
0898 11 00	223	AND #02		0904 05 01	323	STA #	
0899 11 00	224	AND #02		0905 05 01	324	LDA Y2	
0900 11 00	225	AND #02		0906 05 01	325	AND #0	
0901 11 00	226	AND #02		0907 05 01	326	LDA #AC0	
0902 11 00	227	AND #02		0908 05 01	327	ADC #	
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0910 11 00	235	AND #02		0916 05 01	335	AND #0	
0911 11 00	236	AND #02		0917 05 01	336	LDA #AC0	
0912 11 00	237	AND #02		0918 05 01	337	ADC #	
0913 11 00	238	AND #02		0919 05 01	338	STA #	
0914 11 00	239						

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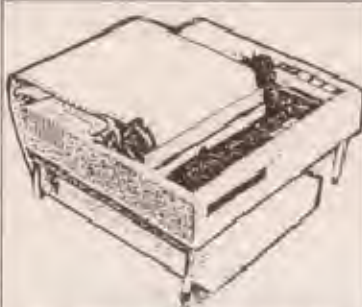
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I RARELY feel envious of another person's expertise, but Jeffrey Stanton has written a book - *Apple Graphics and Arcade Game Design* - I would like to have written myself. What is worse, he has given away all those secrets of Apple graphics which have taken me years to uncover, and has done it in a clear and lucid style. I might just have managed to have swallowed my pride and accept this, but Jeffrey has rubbed salt in the wound, in that I learnt a lot from his book as well!

It has something for everyone - whether you are programming in Applesoft, a machine code beginner or even someone who thought they knew a reasonable amount about the Apple's internals and graphics routines.

It starts with a review of the graphical commands available from Applesoft and deals with routines for page flipping, and production of shape tables and their use in animation. Typical of the book's style is the fact that a useful graphics EXEC routine is given within the first five pages.

The coverage of the character generator and ANIMATRIX routines in the DOS 3.3 Toolkit shows the broad sweep this book covers (and all by page 33!)

Although Applesoft graphics are handled in a more than adequate manner this is not a book about Applesoft and the remainder is devoted to the use of machine code (or assembler) routines, which are necessary "for the speed, flexibility, colour and smoothness of quality arcade games."

The section starts with an introduction to assembler fundamentals, comparing them to similar Basic routines. This is consolidated with a lo-res "Breakout" type game written in assembler. This section is explained in an easy style, but I would recommend a beginner to refer to a 6502 text book as well.

The book really moves into its own when it starts to show the machine code

Revealed - all the secrets of Apple graphics

routines that drive the Apple hi-res system. Jeffrey Stanton gives you all the pointers and entry points for using all these routines, and shows how they can be used to animate a simple bird-like shape. He also lists the benefits over Basic.

I liked his explanation of the way

even faster than using a shape table and machine code.

Once these basic methods are grasped the reader is encouraged to use them in routines for moving guns, dropping bombs, shooting bullets and interfacing with the paddles. The routines are then incorporated in a simple invaders type game.

Having digested all this the reader still has one third of the book to cover. Sections still remaining cover such things as steering spaceships, collisions, explosions, score-keeping and moving backgrounds. All these items are linked together in a Pegasus II type game.

If there are any errors in this book I haven't found them yet. On the other hand I haven't finished typing in all the 90-plus pages of assembler code routines and games. The publisher says that copies of these routines can be bought from them by all purchasers of the book. This is the best book on Apple graphics I have seen and I thoroughly recommend it.

Apple Graphics and Arcade Game Design is published by The Book Co, Los Angeles, price \$19.95. ■

By Ed PEACH

colours are displayed on the hi-res screen, not only for its clarity but also because it was the only area in which I found a small omission. He doesn't mention "dithering" - the apparent colour effects which can be obtained by stacking different colour layers above one another.

The pace then hots up, and the reader is introduced to raster (or block-shape) graphics, a method of plotting shapes

Virus: Take on an empty disc

● I've called this small program "Virus", writes Trevor Roberts, because it has very similar properties to the way in which a virus replicates itself within a host cell. I advise trying it on an empty disc.

Line 10 stops a CTRL-C interrupt. Lines 30-40 rehooks the RESET key so that the program in memory is run. Location 28910 is used as a counter, and line 100 starts a reset cycle.

● This routine could be dangerous to the health of your discs - use at your own risk! - Peter Brameld.

Appletip

```
10 ONERR GOTO 100
20 CALL 1002
30 POKE 1010,102: POKE 1011,213
40 CALL - 1169
50 N = PEEK (28910)
60 PRINT : PRINT CHR$ (4): "SAVE
  VIRUS ";N
70 PRINT "THE DISEASE IS SPREADING"
80 IF N = 355 THEN N = 0
90 POKE 28910,N + 1
100 CALL - 1438
```




THE APPLE'S BASIC CORE:

With Disk File Applications

by N. Kantaris, *Cambridge School of Mines*

This book is specifically designed for use with an Apple II microcomputer equipped with a disc drive. The first half of the book introduces the newcomer to the BASIC programming language and does not presuppose any prior knowledge of, or familiarity with, computers or their languages. The latter half of the book will prove useful to those who already have a general knowledge of BASIC, but would like to be led through the intricate path of utility programs, error-handling routines, Monitor subroutines, screen handling and keyboard entry routines, all of which are illustrated and incorporated into working programs.

The last few chapters of the book are devoted to disc file applications with particular emphasis on database techniques.

Graded problems are set throughout the book, with full working solutions appearing in the last Appendix.

A key feature of the book is that it contains over 60 complete programs for the Apple II, ready for keying in. These include: Bar charts, Stock control, File Maintenance, File Editor and Graphics Generations.

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 Anyone who has implemented my lowercase monitor (see October Windfall) may like to know of a little patch that makes the shift key available to Pascal, writes J.P. Lewis.

Hidden inside System.Apple, there is a routine that checks the paddle button 3 location (\$C063), and uses it as a shift key while the system is in the CTRL-E mode for lowercase.

By running the little program on the right, you can alter this so that it checks the shift key at my location of \$C066. If you have a lowercase character generator, the other changes to System.Apple will make the screen show upper and lower case rather than the standard inverse/normal characters. (This will work even without the shift key mod.)

With this change the special characters above M,N,P are obtained by holding both SHIFT and CTRL; furthermore, the 'soft crash' CTRL-SHIFT-P is disabled.


I haven't yet perfected the idea, but nevertheless what it does could be very handy.

Shifting in Pascal

```
program SHIFT;
var
  BUF:packed array [0..31,0..511] of 0..255;
  F:file;
  I:integer;

begin
  reset(F,'SYSTEM.APPLE');
  I:=blockread(F,BUF,32);
  close(F);
  BUF[4,611]:=102; (* To get BIT $C066. *)
  BUF[5,4011]:=97; (* Comparisons to identify *)
  BUF[5,4051]:=123; (* lowercase input. *)
  BUF[5,4091]:=9; (* This pair changes *)
  BUF[5,4101]:=224; (* EOR £$40 to OR £$E0. *)
  reset(F,'SYSTEM.APPLE');
  I:=blockwrite(F,BUF,32);
  close(F);
end.
```


Paddles prompter

 THIS program can be incorporated into a game to see if paddles are present.

Make sure you switch off the Apple before plugging in the paddles.

Michael Osborne


```
10 REM MICHAEL OSBORNE 1982
20 REM PROGRAM TO DETECT PADDLES
30 P = PEEK ( - 16287 ) > 127
40 Q = PEEK ( - 16286 ) > 127
50 IF P AND Q THEN HOME : INVERSE : PRINT "YOU HAVE NO PADDLES "
  : NORMAL : END
60 REM REST OF GAME
70 HOME : PRINT "YOU HAVE GOT PADDLES PLUGGED IN NOW "
```

 If a long program gets corrupted when you use the hi-res graphics page try this routine to stop your program being overwritten by the graphics page(s):

```
HGR PAGE 1
10 POKE 103,1
20 POKE 104,64
30 POKE 16384,0
40 PRINT CHR$(4);"RUN PROGRAM"

HGR PAGE 2
10 POKE 103,1
20 POKE 104,96
30 POKE 24576,0
40 PRINT CHR$(4);"RUN PROGRAM"
```

More free disc space on tap

 When a DOS 3.3 disc is nearly full it is often useful to free the unused sectors 5-15 on track 2 to gain extra space. The following simple procedure enables you to do this very quickly from the monitor, without having to run a ZAP program or otherwise interfere with normal user RAM:

1. CATALOG the disc to be modified. (Sets correct slot and drive and reads the VTOC into its DOS buffer.)
2. *B3FB: FF EB (Modifies the VTOC buffer.)
3. *AFFB (Calls the DOS routine which writes the VTOC buffer back to disc.)

Alternatively, equivalent instructions can be issued in immediate mode from either Basic: (1) CATALOG (2) POKE-19481,255 (3) POKE-19480,224 (4) CALL-20485.

Michael Clark

Recursive Applesoft for speedy sorting

One of the advantages that Apple Pascal has over Applesoft is the way it allows you to set up subroutines that call themselves. If you have read my article on the Quicksort (Windfall, September '82) you will appreciate how convenient this can be.

Here, to show that recursion can

be done in Applesoft if you are prepared to look after your own stack, is the Applesoft version of that same routine.

The key to handling self-calling routines is to set up an array (or set of arrays) indexed in some way by the depth of recursion (the variable N in this program.) This array is then used to store the current values of all the important variables just before the routine calls itself. For ease of handling, the following four steps should occur:

- (i) Stack the current values
- (ii) Set the "Ingoing" parameters
- (iii) GOSUB to the routine
- (iv) Unstack the saved values immediately after coming back.

Although the Quicksort in Apple-

soft is far less efficient than it is in Pascal, it is still five times as fast as a bubblesort, and only 10 per cent slower than an optimised shellsort over 100 numbers. (At the 500 mark, the 10 per cent swings the other way.) The real value of the Quicksort however lies in sorting large lists of strings, as it does far fewer swaps than the shellsort, thus producing far less garbage.

If you intend to use this program for large lists you will need to change the size of the stack array. As a rough guide, the stack length should be slightly greater than the log to base 2 of the number of items, e.g. stacksize 12 for 500 items, 15 for 2,000 items.

J.P. Lewis

```

10 GOTO 1000
20 REM J.P.Lewis
30 REM Quicksort 2/10/82
35 REM
40 REM Set the low/high pointers for a single pass.
50 JLOW = LDW:KHIGH = HIGH
55 REM Pick a pivot item (the middle)
60 PIVOT = A((JLOW + KHIGH) / 2)
65 REM Reentry point for one pass: if the pointers have crossed, the pass is over
70 IF JLOW > KHIGH THEN 200
75 REM Sweep down from top until you hit something less than or equal to the pivot.
80 IF A(KHIGH) > PIVOT THEN KHIGH = KHIGH - 1: GOTO 80
85 REM Sweep up from bottom until you hit something greater than or equal to the pivot.
90 IF A(JLOW) < PIVOT THEN JLOW = JLOW + 1: GOTO 90
95 REM If your pointers have not crossed, they are pointing at a pair that needs to be swapped.
100 IF JLOW < KHIGH THEN TEMP = A(JLOW): A(JLOW) = A(KHIGH): A(KHIGH) = TEMP: JLOW = JLOW + 1: KHIGH = KHIGH - 1
105 REM Go back to continue the pass.
110 GOTO 70
195 REM Stack the pointers to the ends of the top half of the list.

```

```

200 N = N + 1: STACK(1,N) = HIGH: STACK(2,N) = JLOW
205 REM If necessary, quicksort the bottom half.
220 HIGH = KHIGH: IF LOW < HIGH THEN GOSUB 50
225 REM Unstack the pointers to the top half, and quicksort it if necessary.
230 LOW = STACK(2,N): HIGH = STACK(1,N): N = N - 1: IF LOW < HIGH THEN GOSUB 50
240 RETURN
1000 BIG = 100: DIM A(BIG), STACK(2,10)
1010 FOR K = 1 TO BIG: A(K) = INT(10 + 90 * RND(0.3)): PRINT A(K); " ";: NEXT
1020 N = 1: LOW = 1: HIGH = BIG
1030 GOSUB 50
1040 FOR K = 1 TO BIG: PRINT A(K); " ";: NEXT

```

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Users of the Integral Data Systems 440 (Paper Tiger) printers – and very likely others in the 44X range – can save considerably by using standard inking Group 12, twin spool, Crystal type 20 typewriter ribbons in place of the more expensive ones sold for the machines. We have been using these now for well over a year with no noticeable detrimental effects.

Max Parrott

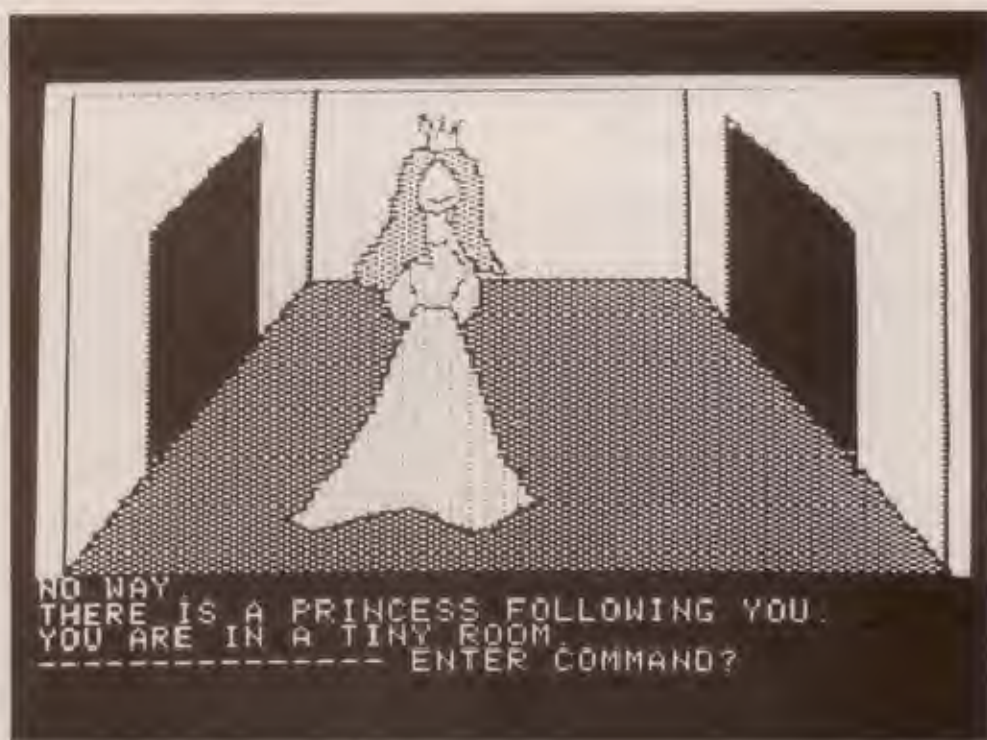
Fairy tale for adults, too

THE wicked wizard Harlin has abducted King George's fair daughter, the Princess Priscilla, and the king has offered half his kingdom to anyone who can bring her back.

You are a "happy wanderer" passing through a village in the kingdom of Serenia when you hear a proclamation to this effect, and since you love an adventure you decide to find her.

All you know is that the wizard's castle is in the mountains to the north and all you carry are a flask of water, a knife, a loaf of bread and a blanket. Now read on...

This is the setting for Wizard and Princess from On-Line Systems. You control the direction of travel (N, S, E, W, up, down, etc) and can inspect objects in the



By CLIFF and
DENISE McKNIGHT

frame in more detail. If you don't do this you'll miss vital clues, but a closer look at a snake can be fatal!

On your travels you meet dangers, find various objects and even learn a few magic tricks besides having to use your common sense and inventiveness.

The input, apart from directions, is mainly in two-word "sentences" such as

LOOK ROCK or GO DOOR. Sometimes you have to be quite persistent to get your instructions across, yet at other times the program almost anticipates you and fills in the missing actions.

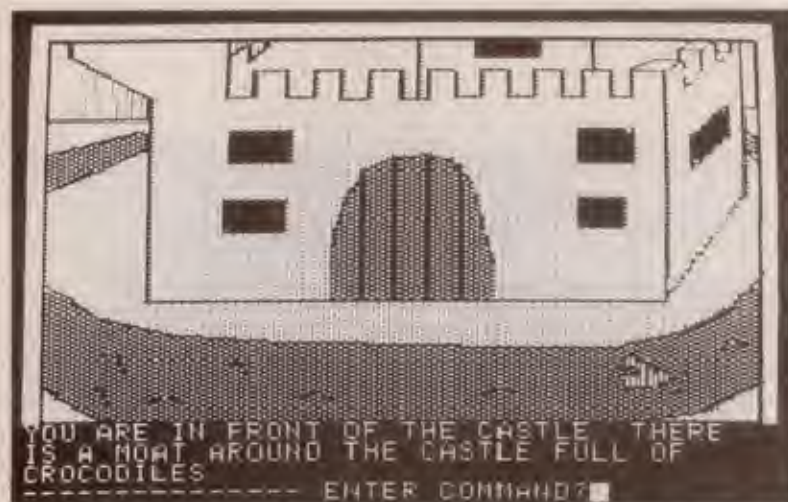
The program allows you to initialise a "save game" disc and you can save the game at any point under letters A to O. Hence there is the possibility of saving up to 15 games. This not only enables you (and 14 friends?) to play the game over several days or weeks but also enables you to try different combinations of possessions and tactics in meeting the various challenges.

When you are killed off or hopelessly stranded, you can go back to where you last saved the game instead of starting from scratch. This can be vital because sometimes you don't get a second chance, and things can have disappeared by the time you return for a second look.

There are six main scenarios to the adventure. The first starts when you boot the disc and find yourself in the village in Serenia. Following your only hint that Harlin's castle lies north, you step north and meet a snake which you cannot pass or go around.

Fortunately, enclosed with the disc was a folded slip of paper marked "Hint to get past the rattlesnake" and subtitled "Read only if absolutely necessary". Well, we tried, and finally we read that we needed to go south into the desert and find a rock.

We're not really giving anything away by saying this because the hint could well have appeared in the instructions without spoiling the game; the slip of paper had the air of an erratum slip. There are



several rocks in the desert and your first task is to find one which isn't guarded by a scorpion.

The desert is an identical-frame maze (On-Line seem fond of these) and is one of the hardest parts of the adventure, although don't expect plain sailing if you get through it.

The worst part of the maze is that normal concepts of map-making go awry: You can go north one frame and then south and *not* end up where you started; or you might go south and west for several frames and then a single step east can get you back where you started. This can be very frustrating, but is not impossible to map.

Each of the six scenarios has a 'gate' which gets you from one to the other and

which is the only way past — no cheating and going round the back way.

The rattlesnake is the first gate into a second desert, then there is a ravine to cross into a wood. The fourth scenario is an island (the gate to which is a leaky boat) and the fifth is the mountains.

The last scenario is Harlin's castle, which was suitably complicated for the culmination of a couple of weeks' playing.

In order to succeed in rescuing the princess, you have to have solved all the preceding puzzles and collected everything you could.

The only way to check that you have been everywhere is to map constantly and try every direction from every frame. We drowned twice doing this, but fortunately

we had saved the game.

On-Line's hi-res graphics are very good, and objects which you drop appear as part of the picture as they would if you dropped them while walking. One consequence of this is that if you drop several items, some appear mysteriously suspended in mid-air.

Where text needs more than the four lines available at the bottom of the picture, a beep (which we soon found irritating) prompts you to press "return" to get the rest of the message and the "enter command" prompt.

Wizard and Princess is a nice adventure game and can be recommended if you like fairy tales. We're still waiting for our half-kingdom reward to arrive — they must be having trouble wrapping it.

QUICK SPINS

Kabul Spy. You are an agent searching Afghanistan to rescue Professor Paul Elsenstadt before he is interrogated. Once you cross the border you are on your own. Let's hope you are as clever as you are ruthless. (Sirius Software)

Crisis Mountain. A high-res arcade game requiring quick reflexes and strategic thinking. Your mission is to defuse bombs planted by terrorists in the treacherous caverns of an active volcano. To reach them you must leap tumbling boulders, crawl through claustrophobic tunnels and cope with other hazards such as bubbling lava streams and radioactive bats. If you don't reach the bombs in time they and the volcano will blow up. (Synergistic Software)

Mastertype. A typing instruction system in a hi-res game format. Players learn to type (there are 17 progressive lessons) as they battle wave after wave of attacking enemy words. (Lightning Software)

Bolo. A strategic, arcade-action tank warfare game in which you have to manipulate your tank through a maze that is 132 times larger than the monitor screen. As the maze scrolls left and right you have to search out and destroy the enemy tank bases while fighting off their defending tanks. There are five types of enemy machines, each with a different speed and firepower. Players can choose from nine levels of play and five levels of maze density. (Synergistic Software)

Escape from Rungistan. You wake up in jail in Rungistan to learn that you are to be shot at sunrise. Can you break out, cross Rungistan with its severe climate and topography and make it to the border? Only the very clever will live long enough to demand their money back from Honest Bob's Discount World Tours. (Sirius Software)

Pill Box. You are the last hope of the Allied forces. You must face and destroy the endless stream of enemy tanks, but you have only a limited number of shells. From your pill box hidden in the hills you must track them on your radar screen, take aim, and wipe them out! (Software by H)



County Fair. Enjoy the excitement of a county fair in your own home. Reproduced for you is the county fair's most popular attraction, the shooting gallery. It's simple to play, simple to score, but not so simple to win. (Datamost)

Tubeway. You've been out on a quiet mission patrolling the frontiers of space when suddenly the universe itself seems to crack and tremble. Before you can react you find you are trapped on the tubeway ... a strange creation of beings from a geometric universe. (Datamost)

Aztec. The legends speak of the fabulous golden idol hidden within the mysterious lost pyramid. You have discovered the pyramid and your job is to descend into the temple, search the secret rooms, avoid the deadly traps, find the priceless idol and escape alive. (Datamost)

Type Attack. One day on the planet of Lexicon the Alphabet began to attack from the sky. The citizens of Lexicon found that the attacking letters and words could be repelled by typing the same letters and words on a keyboard aimed at the sky. Now Earthlings can learn to type quickly and accurately and have fun too. (Sirius Software)

Wayout. Step right up! Who'll be brave enough to take this compass and mapmaker and walk into this maze? You will? Good! Now, I'll just lock this door here and you can try to find your way out. If you do, I've got 25 other mazes for you to try — all in 3-D. (Sirius Software)

Repton. The Quarriors have attacked Repton! They're building a base station and are draining our power supply. They're guarding Repton with everything they've got. You and your squadron, armed with a laser gun, nuke bombs, a radar screen and an energy shield, are our last hope. (Sirius Software)

Snack Attack. You've got it again! First, that empty feeling, then the pangs, finally you feel it ... you are having a snack attack. Your only hope for relief is to gobble up as many gumdrops as you can grab away from the greedy Gumdrops Guards. (Datamost)

• Fuller reviews of some of these games will appear in future issues.

Princesses really shouldn't be let out on their own..

SOMEWHERE in the distance a clock strikes twelve and once again your intrepid reporter sets out to rescue another princess. Honestly, princesses these days just don't know how to look after themselves, getting captured by any passing wizard. It's not like it used to be when I was a lad.

As you might guess from the title, the setting for Transylvania from Penguin Software, is straight out of a Hammer horror movie, complete with vampire and werewolf. There are also a few non-Hammer inhabitants like goblins and frogs, and one you might not expect. Until you work out what to do with them, the vampire and werewolf stand a fair chance of driving you mad.

The vampire inhabits the castle and the werewolf roams free everywhere else. Their trick is to appear at random, and once they appear you can't do much more than move to another frame. Just when you think you've worked out what to do about the cat, for example, and race there to try out your idea, there's that damn werewolf again!

The clock strikes twelve at the beginning of the game and you have until dawn (5 o'clock in Transylvania) to rescue Princess Sabrina. If you fail by that time, you find her lying in a pool of blood. I would guess that the "time" is based on the number of moves, so it becomes important to work out what to do with the werewolf because dodging him can be "time-consuming".

I've mentioned the clock striking, but in fact Transylvania makes no use of sounds whatsoever. Clocks (which chime on the hour), screams and general things that go bump in the night are all represented in the text at the bottom of the graphics screen. The squeamish among you will be glad to learn that there is no X-certificate stuff in the graphics. Pools of blood and your hair being set on fire are represented in the text only, like the sounds.

There is a liberal sprinkling of random spooky sounds and events which means that the text on any particular frame is not totally predictable. Even if you think you know where you are and where you are going, you may suddenly find yourself whisked off elsewhere.

The graphics are very good with some interesting attention to detail, although no matter how much I tweaked my TV I couldn't reproduce the colours in the illustrations on the back of the manual. This could be a UK/USA colour system difference, and the colours were quite nice anyway. The colour-fill system seemed faster than some others that I've seen recently.

The trouble with choosing a setting like Transylvania is that there are so many clichés around. To this extent, some parts of the game might seem easy. However, there are a few twists and a few surprises



to keep it interesting. Overall, I'd say it was of average difficulty.

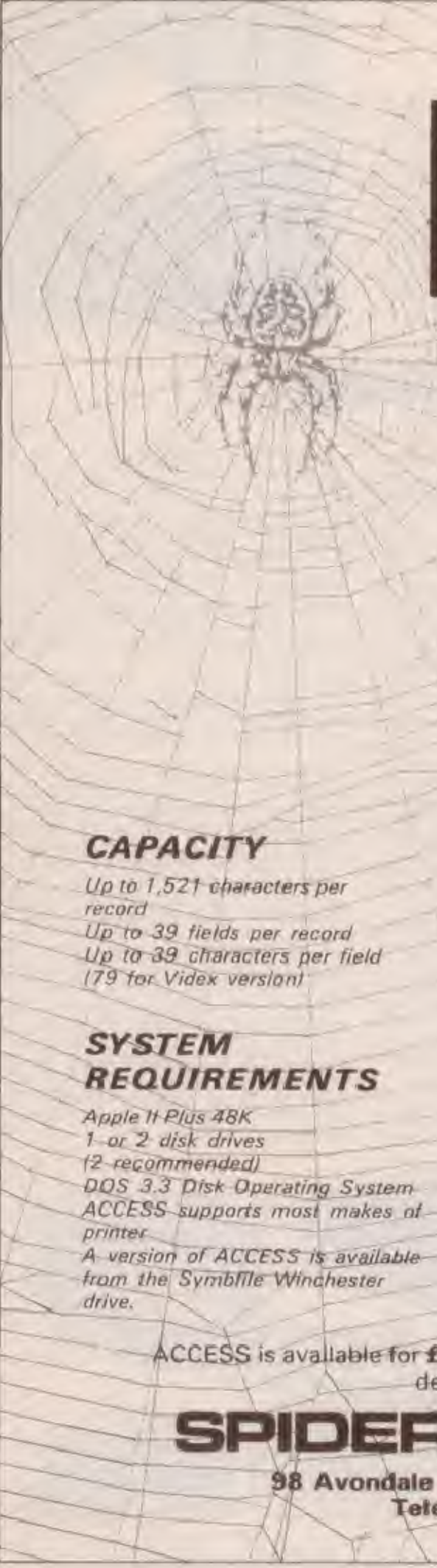
There is a save game facility which allows an infinite number of games to be saved. The game is saved to any initialised DOS 3.3 disc and the file is named in the normal way. Hence the limit on number of saved games is the amount of free disc space you have. Unlike many games, you can't restore a saved game from within the current game, you have to reboot (or be killed off) in order to be given the option to restore. This isn't a problem really, more a point of convenience.

Transylvania was fun to play, and I found the setting a refreshing change from the run-of-the-mill adventure games. Subtly embedded within it is an advert for another game from Penguin, which opens up a whole new range of possibilities. For example, suppose advertisers paid to have their product mentioned; assuming a constant profit margin (I know I'm naive), the cost of the game to the buyer could be reduced. Perhaps princesses in the future will require feeding with a plate of baked beans in order to awaken them. 🍲

Cliff McKnight

...and especially not in horror movie territory





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Background to the big back-up business

COMPUTERS are all about memory. All you get when your cheque passes over the counter for an Apple is a 6502 processor and a variety of memory devices. These are an electronic/magnetic version of the filing cabinet information storage and retrieval systems of the traditional office.

The hobbyist might use a cassette tape for storage, but for the rest the choice lies between removable floppy discs, hard discs or pseudo discs. The floppy has two standard sizes – 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ and 8in – and while a smaller floppy is currently being marketed no decision has yet been made as to an industry standard. But it seems likely that the major manufacturers will settle on 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Hard discs for the Apple have traditionally been "fixed". That is, they have a much greater storage capacity than a floppy, but they are permanently encased and once "full" a decision must be made as to whether to delete little-used files to provide more room for storage, or to buy a further hard disc unit to expand the system.

Removable hard discs offer large capacity with the floppy system's flexibility, and the latest trend is the development of removable mini discs.

The most realistic way to assess the cost effectiveness of an initial investment is to relate the pounds spent to the amount of memory purchased.

The Apple itself uses random access memory (RAM) to store programs as data. This shouldn't be confused with ROM, or

read only memory, which can be compared to a text book in that it can be called up for use at any time, but cannot easily be changed by the user.

RAM may be envisaged as a large variety of pigeon holes (about 48,000) in which the data is stored.

The contents of any individual pigeon hole can be speedily accessed and changed during the execution of a program considerably faster than similar changes can be effected on external storage systems. The contents of this memory however are not permanent – all the pigeon holes are cleared on switching off power.

Floppy discs operate at a much slower speed but when power is switched off, the data remains stored for future use. Floppy disc storage is up to 1,000 times slower to access than the Apple's core memory. The busy Apple user cannot afford to spend the time waiting for floppy discs to LOAD or SAVE files however and so the search is always on to speed access.

Many approaches have been made to the problem. The first answer, the hard disc, is probably the best in terms of speed of access and size of memory made available but it involves the greatest cash outlay – although that does not necessarily mean it is the most expensive when costs per unit of memory are calculated.

Eight inch floppy discs offer more memory than the conventional 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in floppies but not a great deal more. And as

they cost more and offer a minimal speed increase they are a rather unattractive option.


Commercially available software changes have been made to the standard DOS 3.3 operating systems so that the "skewing" of the sectors is physically changed on the disc surface. This can offer quite significant speed improvements, perhaps factors of two or three dependent on the operation, but reliability may suffer.

Another approach is to set aside an area of RAM to be used as a pseudo disc; this is offered commercially as a plug-in card bearing 128k of RAM for the Apple II.

The resulting speed increase is fantastic but there is one serious objection. The memory is volatile – files are lost when power goes off – so one has to transfer the contents of the pseudo disc to a real one to give permanent memory.

We investigate in this section two 128k RAM cards, as well as another development in disc emulation – a bubble memory device.

More than 750 companies worldwide make hardware add-ons for the Apple II and III. The table opposite gives details of some of the disc drives and disc drive subsystems currently available in the UK.

In looking for a system a user should establish that it is reliable, easily-maintained and offers good back-up. Other factors are storage capacity, quietness in use, and compatibility with existing operating systems. 



Make and model	Supplier	Price	Hard or floppy	Formatted capacity removable	Disc size (inches)	Stackable	Expandable	Disc format and systems supported	Back-up supported	Other comments
SS10R SS15R	Rohitr	£2385 £2600	hard hard	10 5	3.9 3.9 and 5 1/4		yes yes	2 discs (5mbyte each) CP/M, Pascal CP/M and Pascal	yes, removable yes, integral	Only slightly larger than standard Apple disc drive
SS5F SS5R		£1500 £1800	hard hard	5	5 1/4 3.9	yes yes	yes yes	CP/M and Pascal CP/M and Pascal	yes yes, integral	
REAL R3SD REAL R6SD REAL R12SD REAL R20SD	Rusidano	£1395 £1890 £1995 £2495	hard hard hard hard	3 8 12 20	5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4	yes yes yes yes	yes yes yes yes	DOS 3.3 (single or three times floppy volumes) CP/M (logical drive size up to 8mbyte in units of 1.5mbyte) PASCAL (one to four volumes of 1.5mbyte)	yes, tape streamer or floppies	No extra RAM needed by drivers. User-definable "SPLIT" operating systems. DOS/CP/M/ PASCAL
Contour 3	GWP	£395	hard	3	5 1/4	no	yes (by daisy-chaining up two drives)	One disc subject to volume limitations DOS - 400K, CP/M - 8mbyte Pascal - 6mbyte, BOS (MPSU) 8mbyte Any of these OS can coexist on the same disc		
Contour 6 Contour 12 Contour 21 Contour 42		£1195 £1595 £1895 p.o.a.	hard hard hard hard	6 12 21 42	5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4					
X-COMP PHD	Pete and Pam	£2485	hard	20	5 1/4	no	no	Supports CP/M, Pascal, DOS and networking	built in	Can be added to Apple II, Apple III and other 280-based micros.
Capricorn Aquarius Scorpio	HAL	£1750 £3299 £3299	hard hard hard	5-22 5-11 5-11	5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4			All systems used with Apple Basic DOS 3.3, Pascal (Fortran 1.1 and later) and CP/M	to floppy streamer tape Amivix 8mbyte disc	
SymBfile	Symbiotic	£1350	hard	3, 21				All support DOS, Pascal and CP/M. DOS looks like sets of floppies	2nd SymBfile/floppy	
Model FDB/D Model FDB/20	Elcon Research	£1250 £1750	floppy floppy	1 2	8 8	yes yes	yes no	IBM Format (256K sectors). DOS arrangement - 1mbyte file volumes Pascal and CP/M volume size 1 mbyte 256K sectors. Volume Manager Program allows user to set own volume sizes up to 8 mbytes in any combinations.	yes	Compatible with all Apple software (BIOS, ie standard size). Auto recognition of single and double density discs. Intelligent controller with 64 K RAM for buffering, caching, back-ground print spooling, etc.
DiCache 10 DiCache 20 DiCache 40		to be advised	hard hard hard	10.5 21 40	5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4	yes yes yes	yes yes yes		yes	
DAS-11	Tamarisk Design	£225	floppy	125K	5 1/4	yes	up to 4	Supports CP/M and Pascal	yes	
Data Box	X-Data	p.o.a.	hard	5, 30	5 1/4	yes	yes	DOS CP/M, Pascal	yes	Stand alone Winchester or Winchester floppy combinations Other interfaces available Other interfaces available Removable disc cartridge
Kitten Sphynx DP100 DP400 5035 5012 5018 RFD480 RFD960 RFD4000				10.6 10.8 10.6 42.4 10 15 0.32 0.65 1.0	8 8 8 8 5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4 8	no yes				
Megastor IISD Megastor IID Megastor III Mios	Vlasak		floppy floppy floppy floppy	1 2 1 1.25	8 8 8 6			Supports DOS 3.3, Pascal 1.1, CP/M 56K IISD reads as 4 x 0.25 mbyte IID reads as 2 x 1mbyte SOS 1.1, Business Basic, Pascal Reads as 2 x 0.5 mbyte or 4 x 0.25 mbyte DOS 3.3, Pascal 1.1 Reads as two drives in both cases. SOS 1.1		Two double sided drives
Elite One Elite Three	RANA	\$849	floppy	163K 652K	5 1/4 5 1/4	yes yes	up to 4 drives	DOS 3.3, Pascal 1.1, CP/M 2.208		For Apple II and III Write protect feature. Elite 2 - 3 have double sided head.
Rodime RO 101 RO 102 RO 103 RO 200	ICE	£1350 £1500 £2200 £2500	hard	3 6 12 21	5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4 5 1/4			DOS, CP/M and Pascal	Image tape streamer sub-system (£1595)	Rotary head positioner, microprocessed control with on-board diagnostics. 2 chamber construction. Available for Apple II or III
Corona 408 Starfire Corona 412 Starfire	Corona Data	£2495 \$2995	hard	5 10	5 1/4 5 1/4			Apple DOS CP/M, Pascal (up to 16 operating systems). Variable size volumes (up to 400K in DOS)	Floppy (with file compaction) auto-disc sequencing	9K interface card. Read-after-write and auto-back sector reallocation.

RAM cards show a clean pair of heels

WITH the slow speed of Apple disc drives and their size, I was looking round for a bigger, better, faster drive. I'd heard about 128k RAM cards before and they seemed a good idea, but, at about the same price of a floppy drive, were they really viable? For that price wouldn't I be better off putting up with the slow speed of a floppy drive and keeping my files on non-volatile media?

The RAM cards themselves are generally arranged as multiple banks of 16k so they can be used instead of, or in addition to, a 16k language card. They come with their own driving software, which is the most important part of the package. This is the thing that lets them do work and be useful.

The amount of software supplied varies from make to make. You can have as much RAM as you like, but if it takes 10 years to program it to do anything, it's a waste of time and money.

Not all RAM cards are supplied with software that enables them to be booted and used in all environments. Those that do must generally be rebooted for each environment.

Although the advantages of the cards seem readily apparent it is worth remembering that just because they are RAM cards doesn't mean they work at RAM speed. The driving software takes time to operate, so the speed varies with the efficiency of the drivers. It can range from as much as 20 times to as little as three times as fast as a floppy drive. To put this in perspective a Winchester hard disc is about 10 times faster than a floppy.

Most RAM cards require you to boot an operating system image, then run a program to set up the pseudo disc. Once set up, the disc is still devoid of data and must, if required, have files copied across.

The time taken to simply set up and load the pseudo disc with files will probably be more than the time you save by using the pseudo disc even for a long disc intensive run. At the end of the run the data must then be transferred back to floppy if it is to be saved.

All this extra time could make the RAM disc uneconomic for some users, particularly those who only need short runs. Having said all that, the speed increase with some of the cards can change the use of packages involving word processing and accounts from a long, tedious bore to a quick and efficient operation.

One of the best suites of software to be seen with a RAM card comes with the Saturn cards. It enables the card to operate towards the top of the range at nearly 12 times the speed of a floppy.

The Saturn supports Apple DOS, Pascal and CP/M environments for a pseudo disc, but does need to be rebooted if changing between them. The software can make full use of any RAM cards plugged into the back plane up to a maximum of 256k giving a double-sized, fast disc capability but at about twice the price.

Using Saturn software is reasonably

easy, although by no means automatic, except in Pascal. With Apple DOS a program must be run in order to set up the disc and use it. There must be another three files as well, and all are used by the set-up program.

Each time the machine is switched on this set-up program must be run in order to use the RAM disc. The program modifies DOS so that if you have to reboot without switching off, the set-up program must be run again to preserve the RAM disc's contents.

This makes it cumbersome in use but, to be fair, the vagaries of Apple DOS do not help any in this respect. There is also software available which will move Apple DOS onto the RAM card. Utilities such as FID and Muffin work with the RAM card as well as floppy discs.

By T.N. THOMPSON

Using Pascal on the card involves a complicated set-up procedure similar to DOS, but is a once only thing. Once the environment is set the pseudo disc is automatically initialised on boot.

To make Pascal even more automatic, there is a program that on boot will automatically load the RAM card with marked files and which can be inserted before your auto boot program. Then the files are loaded onto the RAM card and your program is run. When finished with the card there is a very fast copy program which dumps the contents of the RAM card to a floppy. On the whole, a very civilised system.

Like Pascal, CP/M's RAM card driver has a once-only set-up program. This is the only software provided by Saturn for CP/M (as they rely on SUBMIT files and PIP to copy files to RAM) which is unfortunate as CP/M would really benefit from a fast copy to RAM facility.

The set up program generates two .COM files: INIT.COM and INIT2.COM. The first initialises the RAM

disc and the second recovers a crashed RAM card.

I consider it very worthy of Saturn to provide these back up and recovery programs. However the only trouble I had with the whole system was when I made extensive use of these programs using Apple DOS. I have never had to use the recovery programs with either Pascal or CP/M in three months' heavy use, as both have worked flawlessly.

The manual for the Saturn card is very good, being easily readable by the most inexperienced user and yet not boring to an expert. All the information you could require is included. It is a credit to its author.

Just before this article went to press I had a brief encounter with the Ramex 128k RAM card. The software supplied provides a number of facilities for Apple DOS and a pseudo disc for Pascal, but none for CP/M.

While using the Ramex card as a disc emulator the speed increase is just over 10 times that of a floppy drive.

In Apple DOS the System Master must be booted, followed by the supplied disc. The program which then runs places an enhanced DOS on to the card which can then be saved and booted by INITing a disc.

The new SolidOS has extra commands which allow the card to be INITed to a pseudo disc, to fast load the card, dump the card's contents to floppy, and write-protect the card. There is a lot more, including the ability to store and recall vast arrays.

I found this new DOS a great improvement over the standard, especially as most of the new commands work with floppies as well as the RAM card. I also thought it a better, more automatic implementation than the Saturn.

As it is an enhanced DOS not requiring extra software to control the card, I had no problems at all with data loss, unlike the Saturn Apple DOS.

The Pascal implementation works in exactly the same way as with the Saturn system, but neither card is compatible.

The Ramex documentation was not up to Saturn standard. I found it tried to explain complicated subjects in a simple manner and simple subjects in great depth. The result - a brief manual that makes heavy reading.

With the availability of CP/M on the Apple and the enormous amount of software available, it is a major failing on the part of Ramex not to include any software for the CP/M environment in their package. I feel they should eliminate this gap as soon as possible to make the package complete.

Both cards have their good and bad points. They are expensive and their performance does not live up to the image of fast RAM. On the other hand some users may find the increase in access speed a boon to their operations.

The cards give the speed performance of hard discs, but much reduced storage capacity, for a lower initial cost. ☐

Don't let back-up get you down..

FLOPPY discs are marvellous things. They store hundreds of thousands of characters on a piece of plastic smaller than a postcard. They are left lying around on dusty desks; they are rammed in brief cases; they are consigned to the tender mercies of the Post Office; and still they deliver back our data at 192,000 bits per second.

There comes a time, however, in every disc's life when it stops performing reliably. With some of the cheaper brands this can be after only a few dozen accesses. With expensive brands it can be after many hundreds of thousand accesses. But whatever discs you use, and however well tested your programs, one day you will get a disc error.

Usually you will know pretty quickly. The computer will stop and print an error message, for example in CP/M:

**BOOS ERROR ON B
or ERROR EF**

When this happens you will find out just how reliable your back-up system is.

The idea behind most back-up arrangements is to take copies of your data files at regular intervals. Then if for any reason your current files get destroyed or corrupted, you can revert to the copies. You will, of course, need to re-enter all the changes since you made the back-up copies in order to bring your files up to date again, but in a well designed system with frequent back-up copies this should not take too long.

Exactly how often to take back-up copies depends on factors such as how much data you are entering, and how much time and money you are prepared to spend on back-up.

For example, if you take copies at the end of each day then you should only have one day's business to re-enter in the event of a disaster. However making back-up copies takes time. Thus you have to choose between the time spent in making back-ups, which hopefully will never be needed, and the time required to get everything back up to date when you do have to use your back-up files.

Another factor to consider is the processing sequence of your programs. If, for example, certain operations only take place at month end, then certain types of error or file corruption may only be discovered at the next month ending. Thus it is essential to keep copies of the files as they existed before each month end run. In these circumstances a daily back-up routine on all files would require more than 30 generations of back-up.

Keeping track of all these discs would

By PAUL RAYNER

probably require a computer system dedicated entirely to this. A more conventional approach in these circumstances would be to take weekly back-ups. Less time would be taken while making copies and the number of discs would be much more manageable.

The process of copying back from your back-up discs is known as "backing down". It is important to back-down rather than just to use your back-up discs in place of your normal ones. It could be a bug in your programs that is causing the error and if you use these programs on what had formerly been your back-up copies you will corrupt those discs as well. When the programmer finally discovers and corrects the fault you will still be in difficulties because you now have no back-up.

Obviously, if you are going to have to re-enter all the transactions since you made your back-up copies you must have some way of knowing what these transactions were. Keeping the original source documents in neat bundles is one way. The more usual way is to bring out audit reports whenever transactions are entered and to file these reports as part of your normal operating procedure.

It is crucial to have some clearly understood system controlling the back up

discs, otherwise when you come to back-down you could end up by backing down from the wrong ones. A normal procedure is to have a series of "generations", often referred to as "son", "father", "grandfather", etc. These discs will be rotated so that the one containing the oldest copy will be over-written with the latest back-up copy. Thus "great grandfather" will become "son", "son" will become "father", and so on.

To control all this you need to be able to easily identify which discs are which. Firstly, attach a sticky label to each stating clearly which files are contained and the date that the copy was made.

Then give each disc a unique identifier (a number or letter) or else use a colour code. Disc suppliers always provide a bundle of multi-coloured sticky labels with their product and you can use these to create a "red" set, a "yellow" set, a "green" set.

Finally you will need to keep a register of back-up copies as you can be sure that problems will only occur when you are on holiday, off sick, mending your son's shag-glider, or whatever; and your temporary replacement needs to be able to see at a glance when the last back-up was taken and which discs it is on.

These broad principles apply whatever type of computer you are working on. On the other hand, the exact details of which files to copy and when to copy them will depend upon the exact nature of your programs and your hardware. Your dealer should be able to advise you. ■

Mini-Winnies boom

ONE of the biggest talking points at last month's Comdex computer trade show in Las Vegas was the dramatic increase in the variety and range of memory storage systems now available.

Most remarkable of all has been the sudden growth in the 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in Winchester disc drive market, which only opened in 1980. The industry now expects these ultra compact drives to make up 50 per cent of total fixed disc drive sales by 1986.

Several companies are now offering 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in minifloppies. Shugart's stands 1.6in high and occupies about a quarter of the volume of a standard floppy. It provides 500k unformatted capacity, 135 tracks per inch density and six millisecond track-to-track access time, and uses discs protected by a hard plastic shell.

Santa Clara Systems showed their new 3.9in removable Winchester cartridges - new technology which provides a low-cost method of backing up important data with low power consumption, and also allows for virtually unlimited storage capacity.

Half-height Winchesters and floppies were also to the fore. Vista call their Thinline Quad Subsystem the final evolutionary stage in Apple disc storage, offering the capacity of four Apple drives in the space of one conventional drive. This is achieved with two double sided Thinline discs, providing more than 640k of storage.

Rana have brought out a floppy disc drive that is claimed to give four times more storage capacity than Apple's own drive, plus a much faster access time. And that's getting pretty close to hard disc performance.

*Paul Rayner is managing director of Great Northern Computer Services.

New drives offer massive storage

TWO high-density floppy disc products which provide new mass storage options for the Apple III will be available in the spring.

Apple say the drives ensure greater integrity of data than other high-density drives by way of a unique, double-sided mechanism.

The products, UniFile and DuoFile, contain the new drives in a single and double configuration; each drive provides 871k of on-line storage for the Apple III.

They are designed to serve the needs of managers of small to medium-sized businesses, professionals, software developers, OEMs and others who need mass storage for applications such as accounting and database management. UniFile and DuoFile complement the 140k disc III floppy disc drive, which is built into the Apple III, and ProFile, a self-contained five mbyte mass storage system introduced by Apple in 1981.

UniFile also is intended to serve as the deal backup for ProFile, which allows the user to backup to one location information that would fill 35 floppy discs. With a formatted capacity of 871k, it requires only six discs to back up the total ProFile contents.

It also takes advantage of Backup III, a new software utility that selectively backs up and restores ProFile's files. Backup III will now be included in each ProFile system package.

DuoFile provides Apple III users with an additional mass storage alternative. It contains two Apple 871 disc drives with a capacity of 871k per drive, thus providing built-in backup. Both UniFile and DuoFile offer greater data security over hard disc drives since the discs are removable.

The systems are equipped with a doorless self-ejecting mechanism that eliminates the chance of errors that occur when disc drive doors are opened while writing data. UniFile is 4.39in high by 8.54in wide by 8.81in deep and weighs four pounds. DuoFile has measurements identical to ProFile - 4.39in high by 17.28in wide by 8.81in deep. It weighs eight pounds and is designed to fit between the Apple III and its monitor.

The Apple 871 disc drive is one of the first high-density, double-sided mechanism to be built specifically for personal computer applications. It



DuoFile (left) and UniFile

represents three years of research and development and has undergone extensive testing and design verification during the past year.

"We expect it to make a significant contribution to the personal computer industry," said Barry Yarkoni, marketing manager for Apple's Peripheral Systems Division.

"It combines the best aspects of what has been learned about floppy disc drive over the past 10 years with the latest in floppy disc technology — advanced heads, innovative design, and improved media. Apple's design overcomes some of the fundamental limitations of previous floppy disc drive technology."

The mechanism positions read/write heads on opposite ends and sides of the disc, reducing media wear and increasing data integrity. The system also utilises eight electronically-controlled motor speeds that vary from track to track, maximising data capacity.

Disc drive systems with one speed require the bit density to be less on the outer tracks. The Apple 871 solves this problem by varying the motor speed and using equal density on each track.

The disc drive system utilises an intelligent controller that performs functions such as reading and seeking, and that provides data transfer at a rate of 62k per second, four times faster than conventional floppy disc drives. The controller plugs into one of the Apple III's expansion slots.

UniFile and DuoFile use Fileware discs, a new 5¼in floppy media developed by Apple in conjunction with major media suppliers. Each contains 62½ tracks per inch, providing six times the capacity of the single-sided, 48 track disc used with conventional 140k drives.

The increase from 48 to 62½ tracks per inch is a conservative boost that provides additional storage without sacrificing data integrity, and that requires a less complex and less expensive positioning mechanism than discs with higher densities.

Fileware accommodates a wider temperature range than many high-density discs, further increasing reliability. Because temperature changes can cause the media to expand and shrink, the read/write head on discs of more than 62½ tracks per inch can be sufficiently misaligned to cause reading errors.

"Apple is continuing to enhance its computers with the most advanced and reliable mass storage devices. UniFile and DuoFile complete the first generation of a family of mass storage systems that fully support the Apple III in a wide variety of applications," said Yarkoni.

The Apple 871 disc drive will be manufactured by Apple and a second source. Fileware will be manufactured by Apple and other major media suppliers, including Verbatim and 3M.

UK prices have not yet been finalised, but in the United States UniFile will retail for under \$1,000 and DuoFile will sell for less than \$1,700.

TRON

From the heart of an Apple springs an electronic odyssey

HAVE you ever day-dreamed about the mysterious, electronic civilisation that might exist deep, deep inside the central processing unit of your Apple?

A whole new micro-world where fantasy becomes fact, where energy lives and breathes and where every law of logic is defied.

Such thoughts came to writer-director Steven Lisberger in 1978. A devotee of video games, he had just produced a multi-million dollar animated film called *Animaplympics* and was looking for new fields to conquer.

One summer's day he mentally assumed the role of a classic character from an earlier Hollywood era, the incredible shrinking man, and imagined himself as a microscopic speck escaping from forces of evil lurking in the heart of the Apple, which was just then beginning its meteoric success story.

After two years' gestation, Lisberger and his partner, Donald Kushner, took the idea to Walt Disney Productions, where it received an enthusiastic welcome. The result was the futuristic adventure *TRON*, which went on general release last month.

Quite naturally Apple Computers Inc gets a credit line in the film. So do two other big names in the Apple add-on field, Mountain Hardware and the Syntauri Corporation.

The story starts with the hero sitting at his Apple III writing a program that would get the better of an unscrupulous Master Control Program which was trying to take over the world.

The fact that he was not having much luck was either a reflection of the power of the MCP or the inadequacies of the Apple III. Any beginner who has had to struggle with the III's Sophisticated Operating System will know exactly how he felt.

The hero is so frustrated he decides to incapacitate the user-unfriendly MCP. Instead he finds himself blasted into electronic particles and wakes up in another dimension where computer programs are electronic warriors, the alter-egos of the programmers who created them.

Says Lisberger: "Everyone's looking for

new fantasies in the movies. Outer space has been done to death. They've gone inside the body and under the sea. We've created this new world in *TRON* by taking video games and just blowing them out to the point where they become a reality.

"When games met computer graphics something came alive that hadn't been alive before. Video games were the basis for the fantasy. Computer imagery was the means to create it."

Computer imagery had its birth in the computer graphics of the mid-1960s, when workers in aerospace and scientific research found that simulating objects digitally proved more effective than building models. Today it's the hottest tool in cinematic special effects.

TRON is the first feature film to make extensive use of computer imaging, such as a cityscape at night metamorphosing into computer circuitry pulsating with energy.

Describing how it is done graphics pioneer Larry Elin likens it to the way they light the giant electric poster on Times Square in New York. "However that has maybe 8,000 lights, while one of our frames can consist of more than two million pixels of light," he said.

Those two million pixels — each with its own colour and intensity values — multiplied by the 24 frames it takes for one second of film, adds up to nearly 100 million bits of information for a brief period on the screen that would be missed in the blink of an eye.

Fifteen minutes of the 100-minute film consist of wholly computer-generated sequences and cost a quarter of the \$20 million spent on *TRON*.

The film is breaking so many records in the United States that the pundits are already saying that Hollywood will never be the same again. But then they said that when Disney's *Steamboat Willie* first tooted down the silver screen Mississippi in 1928.

"Sure we've taken risks with this film," said Lisberger. "We've broken with convention. But computer imagery is never going to replace actors. Actors are what I call the ultimate special effect."



The Master Control Program, sinister overlord

... and a new line in computer language





of the world of TRON

CPU — The geographic area within the electronic dimension where the MCP is located.

CROM — An overweight, out-of-shape compound interest program caught and made to play video games by the MCP forces.

DIGITIZE — To enter the measurement of some physical variable into a computer's memory as a series of numbers. Theoretically, it is possible to re-construct a physical entity, a DNA chain or an orange if the measurements are stored in enough detail.

DOMAIN — A geographic area of the electronic dimension.

GAME GRID — The arena where computer programs play video games to the death. The electronic dimension's equivalent of the Roman Colosseum.

GRID BUG — Spidery creatures with the ability to disguise themselves as part of the game grid.

IDENTITY DISC — Used as a means of storing information and thrown as a weapon, a disc is worn on a program's back. A program gets information encoded on a disc by sending it to a User via an I/O Beam.

INPUT/OUTPUT TOWER — The structure where programs communicate with their Users.

LOGIC PROBE — A beam of electricity which can force a program to yield the information it possesses.

MCP — The tyrannical force which demands subservience from all programs in the system.

PROGRAM — In the real world, a set of instructions or coded information entered into a computer system. In the electronic dimension, a being with human qualities created by a User, or programmer. Programs are the alter-ego of the people who create them.

RECOGNISER — A towering robotic entity which flies from domain to domain, looking for programs wanted by the MCP.



A computer program takes on an entirely new meaning in the shape of Yori (Cindy Morgan), here overseeing construction of a computer-generated solar sailer.

It's as easy as pie charts

ANYONE who handles large amounts of numerical data will at some time want to represent it graphically, as a graph can often convey trends and variations in a more informative and lucid manner than a table of figures. However, drawing accurate graphs by hand is time consuming and so any alternative is welcome.

Among the software packages which utilise microcomputers to rapidly transform numerical data into graphs is ISM's GraphMagic which boldly proclaims that "the user-friendly graphics era comes to your Apple."

In common with so much commercial software today, using GraphMagic is rather like conducting a tour of local restaurants. The user is launched into a world of menus and sub-menus which fortunately, as in this case, generally leads to smooth operation of the program.

GraphMagic is supplied on a protected disc and is accompanied by a useful, mainly non-technical user manual. Generating graphs with it is a simple process, and after a quick glance at the clearly written manual I was able to boot the disc and display a pie chart within minutes.

Three types of graph can be drawn: pie chart, histogram and line. Data input is achieved via a flexible input editor, which refers to numerical data as variables which must consist of a name/value combination.

The editor allows new variables to be created or old ones to be loaded from disc and can manipulate up to 40 variables at a time.

To draw a basic graph all that is re-

quired is a set of variables. As an example of this, Fig. 1 was created by entering nonsense data and selecting the pie chart drawing option. The program automatically labels each segment of the chart and represents each variable as a per cent

By GRAHAM PLACE

of the total.

Basic graphs can be enhanced in several ways. Two lines of text can be inserted as a title at the top of the graph and may be justified to the left, right or centre of the screen. Users with colour monitors also have the option of displaying graphs in a variety of colours.

One of the more powerful capabilities of the package is its full screen text editor, which allows text to be added to any part of a graph. Since graphs are drawn on the Apple's high-resolution graphics pages, text is created by "turning on" appropriate pixels.

Cursor control at a crude level is essentially as normal, but the text editor also has cursor position fine-tuning com-

mands. These move the cursor one pixel at a time left, right, up or down.

This function can be used to create bold face text by typing it twice with the cursor shifted one pixel on the second time of typing (see Fig. 2). It is possible to create any shape desired with imaginative use of the character font.

Incidentally, the text editor can be operated without actually drawing a graph, and so can be used as a crude word processor.

Histograms and line graphs drawn by GraphMagic can be modified in several ways. The x and y axes can be labelled, statistical data - calculated by the program from the variables in memory - can be superimposed on the graph and the scales of either axis may be altered.

With the latter option, altering the default values (1 to the number of variables) of the x-axis shifts the y-axis to the right, leaving its scale hanging in space. This gives poor presentation (Fig. 2).

Several modes of display are possible with histograms and line graphs (Figs. 2 and 3) including superimposing a grid of horizontal and vertical lines. On doing this I found that the vertical lines did not correspond with the tick marks of the x-axis although this should be an easy bug to rectify.

Graphs or variable sets created using GraphMagic may be saved to a data disc. Before starting any serious drawing, the user specifies which disc drive is to be used for data storage and retrieval. Ideally the system should have two disc drives, although the program will operate with one.

To prevent valuable data from being corrupted or lost, user numbers may be allocated. This is a useful option if several people wish to use the same data disc since the formatting of the file names incorporates the user number and thus avoids file name conflicts.

Hard-copy of graphs may be obtained using a printer capable of graphics. Again, the system set-up has to be specified and this includes indicating the type of printer, slot number of the communication card and the column print width desired.

A limited number of printer types are catered for, although if your particular printer is not specified this should not present a problem. GraphMagic saves graphs by utilising the Applesoft BSAVE routine and so files are easily accessible from the data disc.

For the non-technical user, ISM points out that a number of utility programs are

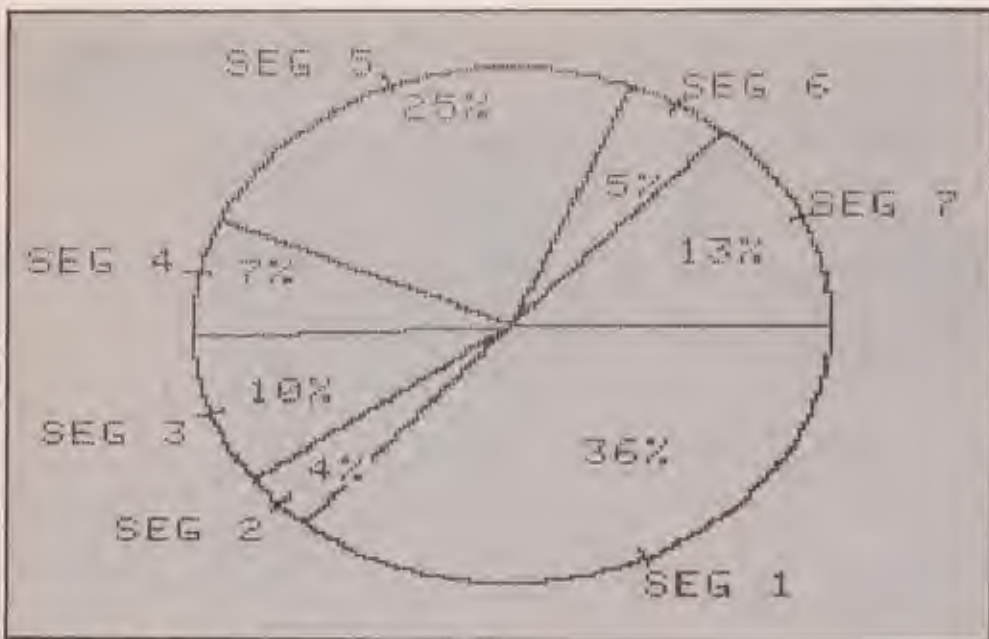


Fig. 1. Basic pie chart drawn by GraphMagic. Highlighting of any one segment of the pie is possible, enabling data of particular interest to be emphasised.

available which will plot a memory image file of graphics to various combinations of controllers and printers.

The default printer of GraphMagic is the Epson MX-80 which was also used for the figures in this review. However, graphs dumped on this printer have a flattened appearance which is particularly unsatisfactory with pie charts because they become squashed into an oval shape (Fig. 1).

This appears to be a common fault associated with the Epson parallel interface card. ISM acknowledges the problem and is apparently trying to solve it at the software level.

GraphMagic can be used in conjunction with other programs. In particular MatheMagic (another ISM product) and VisiCalc. In fact GraphMagic can read any data files saved in DIF format.

An "interface to DIF format" option is provided enabling tabulated data, created by using VisiCalc for example, to be graphed.

With minimum effort, any graphics created with other programs could be enhanced by using the text editor and other options available in GraphMagic - very useful.

What about performance? On the whole I found the package simple enough to operate and it certainly lives up to its user-friendly tag.

Error trapping is excellent and any errors occurring due to user, hardware or software failures prompt the display of appropriate error messages. The meanings of these messages are explained in a comprehensive appendix in the manual

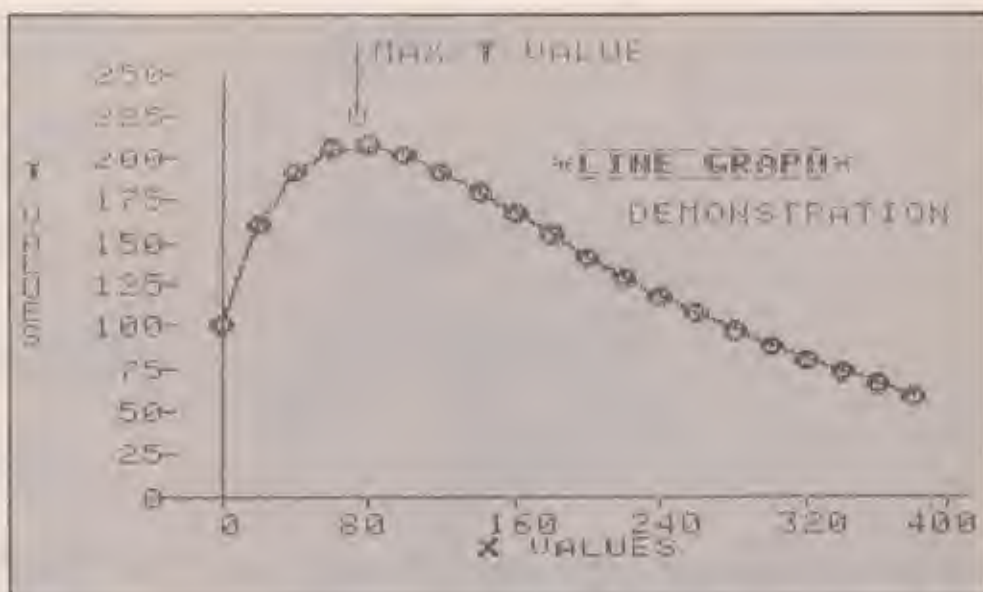


Fig. 2. Line graph representation of a bi-exponential function. This display incorporates text created using the full screen text editor. In addition to plotting points and drawing a line through them, the area between the base of the graph and the line may be filled in.

which also advises on the best routes of recovery.

The formatting of each type of graph is basically very good, although two points should be noted. First, when labelling axes it is often necessary to enclose certain information, such as units, within brackets. With GraphMagic this is simple enough when labelling the x-axis but the mode of display of y-axis labels, i.e. reading from top to bottom (see Figs. 2 and 3), prevents sensible use of brackets.

Perhaps the user could be provided with an option allowing "sideways" printing of y-axis labels, which should be within the scope of the flexible text editor.

I did note that when required to print the % character as part of a y-axis label the program crashed - an odd little quirk since every other character prints perfectly well.

My second point concerns line graph representation which could be improved substantially by permitting x,y data pairs to be plotted.

The nature of GraphMagic's variable input routine, i.e. name/value combination, means that only truly variable y-values can be plotted while x-values simply represent an arithmetic series. The incorporation of a numeric input routine especially for line graphs would be a useful addition to an already extensive repertoire.

These criticisms accepted, GraphMagic is a user-friendly program capable of generating acceptable graphical representations of numerical data.

● A 12-year-old Stockport schoolboy, John Stevens, also liked the package, and sent us his review under the title "Draw your own conclusions".

"This is an extremely useful package for anyone who keeps having to draw loads of graphs, because it saves a lot of proper graph paper (which these days is a lot of money.)

"GraphMagic can be used with MatheMagic and VisiCalc, and it enables you to draw information on a pie, bar or line graph, adding colour where required and highlighting certain parts.

"It is a great graph drawer - and I don't really see the need to have the instructions, because it is so easy to use."

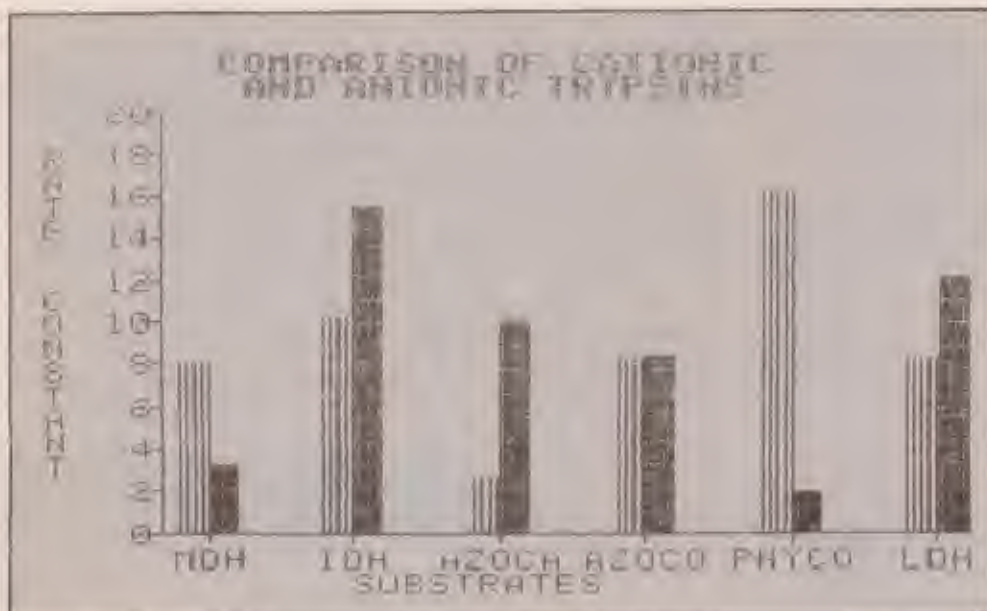
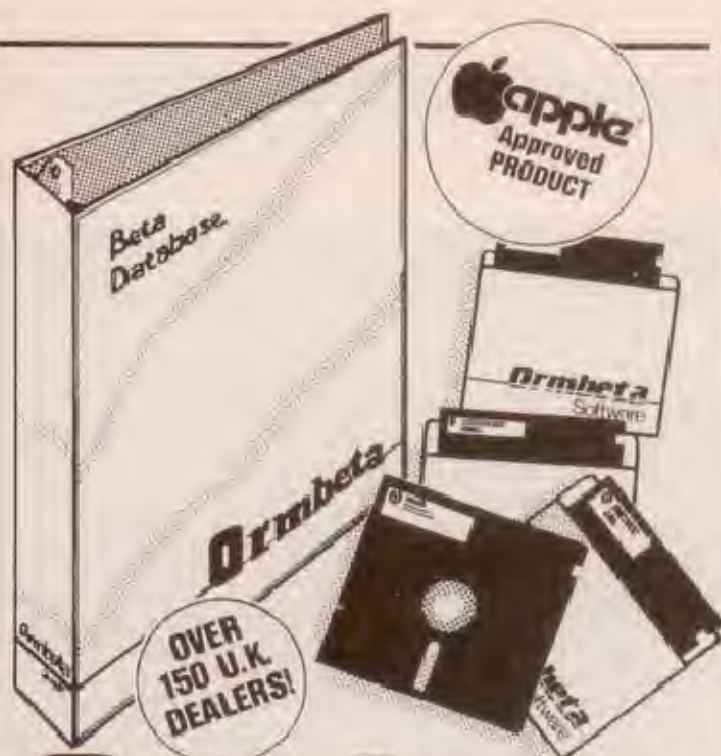


Fig. 3. Bar graph of real experimental data. The bars may be justified left, right or centred, which allows one graph to overlay another.



Ormbeta MEANS BUSINESS...

'Ormbeta' is the most powerful and versatile Database system currently on the U.K. market – and that's a fact! It's written in PASCAL... the language of the future for business and scientific applications, and the specially developed 'P' operating system enables it to be used with virtually any popular Microcomputer hardware. 'Ormbeta' is already available on Apple – IBM – Xerox – Osborne – Sirius, Victor and Sage. It is an Apple-approved product, and they have recently installed the new Beta 'Turbo' system at their European headquarters – what better recommendation is there!

... SOFTWARE!

A typical 'Ormbeta' package comprises Beta Database, Sales/Purchase/Nominal Ledgers, Payroll and Stock Control. Further exclusive packages have been developed for Estate Agents, Catering Management, Club Membership and Golf Handicapping. 'Ormbeta' is constantly being updated and improved to meet today's ever-changing business climate. To find **your** ideal system, contact us for advice on your nearest dealer.

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WF/1/83



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The T/Printer 35 is the lightest weight and lowest cost daisy wheel printer you can buy for your computer. So it will fit within your budget and you can carry it wherever you take your micro. Yet it is tough enough to give years of reliable service. Interchangeable typefaces (standard Olivetti 100 character daisy wheels), variable pitch, multiple copies – all the features you would expect of more expensive word processing printers.

Yet the T/Printer 35 costs only £475 with parallel interface. Operating speed under computer control is approximately 120 words per minute of letter perfect output. What typist can equal that?

Then when you're finished using it as a computer printer, the T/Printer 35 is ready to go right on working as an electronic typewriter.

That's the dual-purpose T/Printer 35 – the versatile computer printer that fits your budget.

*The T/Printer 35 costs £475 with Centronics compatible parallel interface. With RS-232C interface it costs £535. Prices listed are exclusive of VAT.



Datarite Terminals Ltd
Caldare House
144-146 High Road
Chadwell Heath, Essex RM6 6NT
Tel: 01-590 1155



Assistant for budding Brahms

THE American-based Syntauri Corporation, which describes itself as "the pioneer of soft instruments-programmable micro-computer-based digital instruments", has released *Composer's Assistant*, a powerful software tool which allows automated transcription and hard copy score printing.

In use a composer performs on the AlphaSyntauri keyboard and his music is stored in up to 16 separate polyphonic tracks. It may then be viewed track by track on a video screen or printed out.

The company says it is designed to meet exacting professional standards and provides a fast, accurate and inexpensive way for musicians to translate their ideas into hard copy for reviewing, orchestrating and copyrighting.

Any polyphonic piece performed on the Syntauri keyboard may be transcribed into notation similar to piano scoring. The system also incorporates the newly-released Metatrak 16 track recording system which lets composers work with full orchestral ideas and then produce instrument-by-instrument video displays and printed copy. Each track can be polyphonic and any may be chosen for printing.

Composer's Assistant caters for the fact that personal playing styles vary, and can adjust for performance timing variances such as leading the beat.

Additional features include a 1/16th note and rest resolution, special triplets mode, variable accidentals and measure tie marking. A text-editing facility allows the addition of expressions, special instructions, lyrics and chords.

Californian synthesist/composer Kentyn Reynolds developed the program because, he said: "I wanted direct visual feedback of my keyboard impressions, independent of the sounds. The Syntauri system - the keyboard synthesiser, mul-

titrack recorder and transcriber - lets me capture my musical intuitions, then later review the theoretical aspects of what I was feeling as I played."

The software costs \$295. It is designed for use with Syntauri synthesisers and a 48k Apple system with printer. The full five-octave *Composer's Workstation*, incorporating the software and equipment, sells for around \$2,100 in the US.

★ A review of *composer's Assistant* and *Metatrak* is planned for a future issue of *Windfall*. It will also evaluate the rival *Sound Chaser* system and look at other developments in micro music.

Another spreadsheet

A NEW electronic spreadsheet has been developed by Microsoft. It is called *Multiplan* and has many of the standard *Visicalc* functions and capabilities with a

few extra features thrown in for good measure.

As with *Visicalc*, *Multiplan* automatically re-calculates a worksheet when new data or formula are entered, but instead of referring to entries by a grid reference code it allows a user to assign names (such as Sales or Costs) to an entry or area of the worksheet.

Program prompts tell the user what to do next, commands are listed in English, and a help function gives access to a reference guide at any time for information on any command or function being used.

Another facility permits linking information in different worksheets to instruct the Apple to make adjustments automatically on related worksheets when changes are made to a primary sheet.

Entries can be made either alphabetically or numerically and results of a formula can be expressed in either mode. Microsoft claim that using the program's conditional capabilities complex rela-



tionships can be analysed and relevant sentences chosen and displayed automatically.

Worksheets can be broken down into pages of variable size and shape and data from other applications programs can be incorporated.

The program is available for standard Apple II (64k) or for Apple II and III CP/M. It costs £169 from Pete and Pam. Tel: 0706-227011.

Avoiding hiccups...

HAVE you ever had your computer or sensitive electronic equipment hiccup, malfunction or lose data? Was it equipment malfunction, or the result of mains borne interference, transients or noise?

Transients and noisy 240v mains supplies can play havoc with computers, disc drives and many other types of electronic equipment.

A portable monitor unit designed to detect transients and indicate that they have occurred, has been developed by Mektronik Consultants. The Sentry plugs into any standard 240v AC socket, and detects transients at three different levels indicating slight, moderate or severe interference.

Once a transient is detected an indicator lamp remains lit until the unit is reset.

It can be used to monitor different supplies to see which is best, check on site supplies, monitor supplies at exhibitions or when giving demonstrations, identify equipment which generates noise and to monitor supplies overnight and at weekends.

It costs £45. Tel: 061-798 0803.

... and sundry static

WITH the development of the electronic office static electricity has become more than just a nuisance - it can be a mortal hazard for the silicon chip.

The combination of central heating and air conditioning has made offices warmer and drier, which are perfect conditions for the generation of static.

Simply walking across a carpet can create a charge of anything between 5,000 and 10,000 volts, depending upon the carpet fibre and the type of soles on one's shoes. Even the combing of a person's hair with a plastic comb can create a potentially chip-killing charge.

Mainframe manufacturers do build static protection into their hardware. Micro-based offices might consider



The Olympia ESW 3000

buying anti-static carpets specially engineered to do the job. Carpet manufacturer Heuga has announced two additions to its range of carpet tiles, Quantum XL and Tundra, which it says, gives the office designer or end user a comprehensive selection of textures and colours guaranteed to be safe for use with sophisticated electronic equipment. Tel: 0296 84631.

Adaptable database

A DATABASE management system that is easy to operate and simple to learn is File-Fax from TMQ Software of Illinois.

The program offers quick access to files and records and TMQ says it has a unique, powerful and easy-to-use report generator.

It is written in machine language and is completely memory based so that once loaded a user doesn't have to swap discs.

Features include numerous text-editing facilities, help screens that can be called up at any time and an eight-level sort and wide-ranging search capability.

The database itself has no fixed format and can be set up according to individual user requirements. Tel: (from UK) 0101 312-520 4440.

Robot for your Apple

A TEACHING tool that can demonstrate the operation and control of an industrial robot - that's the Mitsubishi Movemaster RM-101, a compact and portable micro-robot, only 25cm high and weighing 10kg.

It has six axes of movement and five degrees of freedom. There is a stepping motor positioned on each joint giving

open loop control and the motors are geared down to give repetition of positions to within 0.3mm.

Mitsubishi claim the micro-robot's intelligence is comparable to that of its big brothers, the industrial robots. It consists of a Z80 microprocessor with 16k RAM and 8k ROM. The ROM is programmed with two test modes so that operations can be checked quickly without being connected to a microcomputer.

The RAM enables it to remember 100 positions, but by extending RAM by 8k the number of stored positions can be boosted to 600.

The micro-robot can be programmed in either Basic or Assembler to give direct control or when using Basic, subroutines in the robot's memory can be called up to give internal control.

Maximum load is 500 grams and top speed is 7cm per second at the tip of hand. Computer control gives straight line movement between programmed positions. The robot links to an Apple II using a standard Centronics interface or an Epson printer card. Tel: 0923-37333.

Records system

AN incomplete records system from Number One Computers includes comprehensive instructions on how to code records, a data entry program that can store and retrieve up to 5,000 records for a client and a Visicalc template to produce profit and loss account, balance sheet and source and application of funds statement.

As the report section is generated by Visicalc, amendments to the trial balance have an immediate effect on the accounts. Comparative figures for the previous year are shown, and the format of any of the accounts can be altered.

The system costs £115. Tel: 0534-77268.

Buffered daisywheel

ANOTHER addition to the high quality daisywheel printer market is the Olympia ESW 3000. Distributors Intelligent Interfaces say it is capable of print speeds up to 50cps in 10, 12 and 15 pitch, has proportional spacing and offers bi-directional printing with shortest path-seeking to provide maximum output and bold, expanded and double print for presentation.

The internal 4k memory allows data to be down loaded to the ESW 3000 from the Apple, thus freeing the computer for another task. It handles any type of stationery and options include a sheet feeder and tractor feed. Price £1,036. Tel: 0789-295385.



THE new W80-PS10 printer table from Westra has a slotted top enabling the continuous stationery supply to be fed direct from the lower shelf, through the hole in the table top, to the underside of a bottom feed printer.

The table top may be fitted in either of two positions - with the slot toward the front or rear of the table depending on the model of printer in use.

The lower shelf which houses the paper supply is adjustable for height and the unit is fitted as standard with four glides for greater stability. Castors can be supplied to special order. The table costs £151.50. Tel: 01-843 1122.

Instant guide to CP/M

INSTANT computer literacy is promised through The Operating Guide, a program which is said to "anaesthetise" CP/M, replacing it with a more easily understood environment.

The package is designed and manufactured by Decision Systems and dis-

tributed by Encotel. They say that with the help of the guide a user does not have to know, learn or understand the CP/M operating system in order to use it. Encotel director Bob Jones says: "CP/M is a good system written for the micro. However The Operating Guide is written for people."

The program hides all file management (listing, deletion and transfer of files, disc copying, memory space availability, addition and execution) of packages such as word processing, ledgers, data base management or financial modelling.

Essentially its job is to make housekeeping routines simpler, faster and trouble free. Disc back up procedure is simplified through a calendar and date routine which tells the operator when back up is due, or overdue. The Guide costs £50. Tel: 01-686 9687.

Database for Apple III

APPLE UK has introduced Quickfile III, a flexible information filing and retrieval system which is the first Apple-written database package for the Apple III. The package has three unique features, claims Apple.

It can generate a multi-record row-and-column display, files can be easily restructured (you can add, delete, move or change fields), and it allows sort on all the data or any data fields at any point.

The system has been designed with business purchasers in mind and copes easily with normal "nuisance" jobs in an office, such as designing business forms, allowing categories to be added and deleted without re-typing previously held information, allowing selective search, display and summarisation from records, and allowing viewing of many records simultaneously. It costs £60.

Quality printer

A LETTER quality printer which uses industry compatible ribbons, print wheels and control commands is now available from Advent Data Products.

The Facit 4565 prints at 40 cps (standard) and 38 cps (Shannon). It handles paper up to 16in wide and can print 10 pitch, 12 pitch or proportionally spaced characters. With 10 pitch characters, up to 130 characters can be printed on a line.

Line (bi-directional) and serial (uni-directional) printing modes are selectable from the front panel. The printer uses

Qume/Diablo compatible daisy wheels, the ribbon cartridge is Diablo compatible and both multi-strike film and fabric ribbons are available, although only in black.

The machine features a friction platen paper feed as standard, and bi-directional forms tractor feeders and cut sheet feeders are optional extras.

It uses an RS232 interface and can communicate at baud rates of 300/600/1200 and 2400. Cost: £1,000. Tel: 0225-706289.



APPLE Pad 1 is a card with a difference designed to fit into the expansion slots of the Apple II. It carries foot long rainbow cables with bared and tinned ends enabling a user to wire up external equipment, control and measuring sensors and experimental breadboards to the Apple. Price £5.95 from Cambridge Microelectronics. Tel: 0223-314814.

No mods needed

A SINGLE-key command word processing package, Word Handler, runs without hardware modification to the Apple II and provides a 66 character line on the video monitor screen without the need for an 80 column board.

Manufacturers Silicon Valley Systems claim that the package is the easiest and most sophisticated on the market and say that new users should be able to use it for practical purposes after about 20 minutes of study and experiment.

Features include unlimited tabs, incremental spacing, vertical spacing and a two character format. Print features are displayed on the screen so the user can see at a glance exactly what will be printed, such as underlining, bold face, superscript, upper/lower case and even/normal justification.

Information displayed at the bottom of the screen gives the name of a document file being worked on, the page number and the enhancements selected. The package costs £109 from Pete and Pam. Tel: 0706-227011.

Turnkey applications

A HARDWARE and software package which can be used to create turnkey applications is available from Flexitallic Controls. Called Autoprom and costing £180 it consists of a single expansion card which offers 16k of Basic memory storage in Eprom. The card is installed in slot 5 and the program stored in Eprom is automatically executed on booting.

It is possible to create a library of programs and whenever a particular application is required the appropriate Eprom is plugged in. The autoprom memory can be erased for re-use by exposure to ultra-violet light. Tel: 0706-343438.

Alternative data entry

A TRADITIONAL mainframe data entry technique – by cards – is now available for the Apple, giving an alternative to keyboard data entry.

The 2000/Apple card reader from Wego Computers interfaces with the Apple II. It is an optical machine which can read pre-printed data as well as accept punched cards or those marked with a pencil or pen.

Up to 120 cards at a time can be inserted into the machine hopper and read at a maximum of 56 a minute. A continuous on demand feature allows the reader to feed automatically once the data from the previous card has been input to the computer.

Typical uses for the 2000/Apple are systems of batch entry such as entering data from choices of patients' selections for hospital menus, market research reporting, the results of routine laboratory tests, the handling of test results in schools and the entry of binary data for machine code programming. The machine costs £1,295. Tel: 0883-49235.

Pascal data analysis

A PASCAL-driven package for data analysis which incorporates software for graphics, statistics and forecasting is being marketed by Appli-Tech Software Services and Fairhurst Instruments.

Called AIDA (Apple Interactive Data Analysis) the package allows a user to subject any series of observations, such as



Autoprom can create a library of programs

on prices, production or sales data, to technical analysis and graphical display.

New series can be produced from original data using simple arithmetic formulae or in combination with other series to produce market share ratios or failure rates.

This year's results can be charted against any other year or against as many as three other series simultaneously. When linked to a plotter, copies of graphs or histograms can be reproduced in colour.

The package allows statistical analysis of any data, as well as a forecasting option, and can be used to create tabulated reports of the data used in any analysis.

AIDA requires a 64k Apple and two 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " floppy drives. It includes three discs and a manual and costs £450. Tel: 0254-393122 or 0625-525694.

Interfaces for Apple III

A RANGE of interface cards for the Apple III has been launched by U-Micro-computers.

Each card includes a full SOS driver allowing the cards to be used with Basic, Pascal or any of the other SOS languages from Apple.

The cards includes an 8 channel 12 bit A/D converter with parallel I/O and timer; a BCD interface capable of acquiring up to 8 decimal digits digital I/O card with time capabilities; a single port serial interface card and an eight port serial interface card.

The latter two items will extend communications applications allowing for example, printer and modem to be connected simultaneously. Tel: 0925-54117.

Hush print

A HIGH speed, two colour printer with three operating modes is being marketed by X-Data. The OKI 2410 is bi-directional and features DP mode working at 350cps, draft mode at 175 cps and near-letter quality mode at 85cps.

It has an extremely low noise level, making it particularly useful in an office environment, and it also features high resolution graphics. Tel: 0753-72331.

Fast lines

A DRAWING package released by Guestel is designed for people who, says the company, find drawing pictures on a graphics tablet rather slow.

Some of the features claimed for the system are instant change of colour, creation of circles, a background grid of dots to help design, dotted or star lines, access to shapes from a stored shape table and polygon and ellipse capabilities.

If used with a language card the package allows storing and restoring designs in RAM and erasure of the last addition to a design.

Other features allow the addition of text or graphics characters and the output of a picture to a graphics printer. The system costs £79. Tel: 0273-695 264.

★ ★ ★

A BACK-UP system for the Apple III ProFile is the Shadow III which manufacturers DNCS describe as a "complete plug in and go" system. The unit is based on the 3M Data Cartridge Drive and is supplied with an interface, data cartridges and full operating software.

The latter includes full ProFile back-up and selected file back-up with full read after write check. DNCS says that the unit takes 25 minutes to copy a 5mbyte disc and to verify data.

**'Yes, this
program's great
-but oh!
that manual!'**

**How often have you read
comments like this in a
review of a new program:**

So much printed matter accom-
panying programs - whether a
detailed manual for a financial
package or simple directions for a
game - is badly designed or, even
worse, difficult to understand.

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depend very heavily on the
manual which comes with
their system, and if this is not
well written and organised
they soon become confused
and unenthusiastic.

The whole package is let
down by a very cheap
looking manual.

Whether intended for a
computer professional
or a first-time user, the
manual should be sim-
ply written, the in-
structions clearly set
out and presented in
such a way that the
user is given a helping
hand at every stage.

The program is simplicity
itself, but you wouldn't think
so by the painfully obscure in-
structions that come with it.

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Installing WordStar in the Apple

WHEN WordStar, which I have used for some time now without any problems, first arrived it had already been set up for my machine. Recently however, in reviewing three 80 column cards I had to instal the program myself because each 80 column card was slightly different, each with its own protocols.

Although 20 or 30 installations later I can carry out an installation in under 10 minutes, at that time I was a rank novice, so the first step, I thought, was to read the manual.

I read it, was none the wiser, and read it again. I was still having trouble so I phoned a dealer - "No idea" was the response. I tried another - "Do you have to instal it then?", and a third - "Oh, it can't be done with *that* 80 column card."

No friend had installed a "non standard" terminal, and no one seemed to be able to help. So, all else failing and refusing to be beaten by a machine, I sat down at the keyboard and went through it step by step. It was then I discovered that WordStar really isn't that difficult to instal. I also found out that most dealer installations leave a lot out - what the manual refers to as fine tuning. The work proceeds in five steps:

Terminal

The terminal is the first, and can be the most difficult step. Fortunately most 80 column cards that aren't listed look, to WordStar, like one of those that are, and can be installed as that terminal. So if your terminal appears in the list or "looks" like one that does, fine, select that. If not, select "none of the above", read *thoroughly* the section on user patch areas, and patch your terminal manual.

If you still can't find the answers, ring the card manufacturers or importers, who are mostly very helpful. The other alternatives are a letter to MicroPro in the States or experiment by elimination. If the last is necessary, you must have a really weird terminal... and my sympathy.

Two of the 80 column cards I had to instal were non standard. One looked like a listed card, and the other was installed after consulting the terminal manual and the card's importer. Both worked perfectly.

Printer

A lot of people have trouble with the printer for some reason. To start with, there are only two types: dot matrix and daisy wheel printers. If your printer works from slot 1 with Apple DOS it must work with WordStar. With all printers the extra facilities available are patched at the end of the instal program.

First dot matrix printers. If you check in the printer manual your printer will either backspace or not. If not select "A any 'teletype-like' printer (ie almost any printer)". If it does backspace, select "C

'teletype-like' printer that can backspace". That's all there is to it.

If you have a daisywheel which is listed select that option. If yours isn't listed then, as with matrix printers, select either A or C. As already mentioned, the fancy bits come later.

Communications protocol

If you have selected a specific daisywheel printer, select "E EXT/ACK Protocol", and set the correct baud rate on the interface and printer (best at 1200). If not, then select "N NONE required (or handled outside of WordStar)".

Simple wasn't it?

Printer driver

Here again, the selection procedure is simple. The CP/M master BIOS is

By T.N. THOMPSON

defaulted so that the printer, the physical device TTY:, slow console, is assigned to the logical device LST:. The version running on the Apple also requires that the slow console be located in slot 1. The only option available for the Apple is, therefore, "L CP/M 'List' device".

If you have a parallel interface do not be deceived by the "Parallel Centronics" option. All interfaces on the Apple are accessed by the 6502 processor and have their driver routines written in 6502 machine code. This parallel option is intended to allow the Z-80 direct access to the interface and would have disastrous results on the Apple as it could not read the 6502 driving routines.

Final tuning

Once all the above have been entered, you will be asked "Are the modifications to WordStar now complete?". Answering 'no' will take you to the patcher, it is here

you tell WordStar what extra facilities your system has, and the patcher's operation is very simple.

It asks "Location to be changed:". You can enter a hexadecimal address or one of the labels named in the manual. I suggest you stick to labels unless you are proficient at Z-80 machine code.

With labels, you simply enter the label name, follow it with a colon, and press the return key. The patcher then tells you the hexadecimal address associated with that label, its current contents, and prompts for the new hexadecimal contents. Pressing return retains the current content. Pressing return again instead of entering a new label increments the address by one.

If before launching into the labels you write down all the facilities you want your system to use, then write down their codes to perform the functions in hexadecimal. You will find the patcher takes no time at all.

One thing to note while patching labels is that in multiple byte labels it expects the first entry to be the number of bytes in the code. As an example, if your terminal needs ESC (to set inverse, then because ESC (is two characters long, Label should contain 02, Label+1 should contain ESC, and Label+2 should contain (.

There are a number of labels detailed in the manual, both in the section 'Modifications, and in the appendix "Listings of user modifiable areas", and I will detail a few which I have found most useful and might make your WordStar even more user-friendly.

ITHelp: After a short time with WordStar you should find that you don't need the help menu on screen all the time. If you patch this label to a lower help level WordStar comes in at that level. No length byte is needed with this label.

ITPOPN: Patch this label non zero if you don't need page numbers on printouts most of the time. Page numbering will then be available by means of the 'pn' Dot command.

NONDOC: If you write a lot of non document text files patching this label to FF will bring WordStar up in non document mode.

IVON: If your terminal displays inverse characters in CP/M enter the length of the code, then the code, in the successive locations at this label. While a lot of 80 column cards display inverse in Apple DOS, only a few manage it in CP/M, so don't be too disappointed if it doesn't work. If yours does this is a must, as it

makes text editing very much easier.

IVOFF: The reverse of IVON; and has the same format. Turns the display back to normal.

TRMINI: This label should contain the length and then the codes, in successive bytes, that set your terminal correctly. It can be used to enable lower case, shift mod, etc.

TRMUNI: If patched, does the reverse of TRMINI, at the end of an editing session.

DELCUS: Sets certain delays for slow terminals. Apple 80 column cards are not slow terminals, so this label can be set to zero.

DELMIS: Same as DELCUS.

DEL1: DEL4: These delays can be adjusted to give the required delays for the various functions.

DEFDSK: This label sets the drive that WordStar looks on for its overlay files (that is all the files that have filetype .OVR). This is an important label because it can save a lot of work getting WordStar running. As a demonstration, by patching this label to 02 WordStar looks on drive B:

for the overlays. This means the only file I need on Drive A, is the small WS.COM file. This leaves the remainder of the disc free for text file storage and logs the drive correctly. I put the overlays in B:

POSMTH: Check that this label contains the correct value for your type of printer.

BOLDSTR: Sets the number of overstrikes for boldface printing.

DBLSTR: Same as above, but for double strike.

PALT: This label contains first the length of string, and the hexadecimal codes to set your printer to the alternate character font of your choice, assuming your printer has an alternate.

PSTD: Reverses PALT.

ROLUP: Contains the length and code for moving the paper for superscripts.

ROLDOW: Reverses the above.

There are many more labels than those listed. Studying the two sections that cover the labels may show others that you need to improve your WordStar. It really is easy to tailor it to your individual needs as well as the needs of your system.

Appletip

If you want to print more than 40 characters on a parallel printer in AppleWriter 2.0 this is how to go about it:

Pull the print parameters menu up on the screen, and using the Top Line command, type in TL/CTRL/IVON/

Alternatively, using CTRL/V and imbedding the commands in the text also works.

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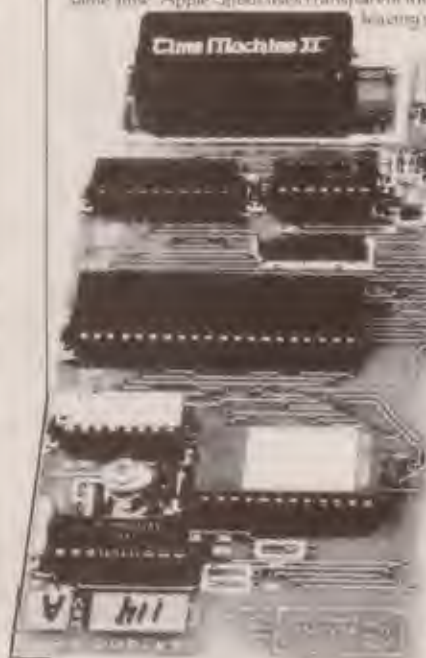
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Can't someone make plain the potentially incomprehensible?



I READ with interest the comments and criticisms made by Derek Mills in the November Feedback about the lack of easily understood information.

As a beginner I have been using an Apple II for about four weeks and although I can now write relatively simple programs I know only too well the frustrations encountered by the poorly written guide books.

The Applesoft Tutorial is a gentle introduction, but in no way comprehensive. The Basic Programming Reference Manual is not a gradual progression from the Tutorial, but jumps so that only those with experience can understand.

I could give you numerous examples of instructions that having deciphered I have re-written in simple English so that I and my colleagues can understand and execute.

It appears from your reply to D. Mills that like nearly all experts in this field you have failed to recognise the problem and cannot therefore consider a solution. (Let a beginner review your Beginner's Dictionary.) After reading there must be some understanding before we can be "doing".

I hope that the book being reviewed "Kids and The Apple" in Windfall will be reviewed by a kid or a beginner so that it can be evaluated by those it is intended for.

As you know, the micro computer industry is growing very rapidly and we beginners will soon outnumber the experts (if we don't already). Perhaps you could devote a couple of pages of your magazine to raw recruits so that more can benefit from the potential at our finger tips. — L. Gazzard, North Harrow, Middlesex.

P.S. I didn't understand the Peek and Poke introduction either.

● I did not write the reply to Derek Mills' letter, writes **Max Parrott**, nor do I believe myself to be an expert, but I do agree with the given reply: in fact as far as programming the Apple goes I do not believe there are any experts.

Let me exemplify what I mean. Basic is a programming language; note the stress on language, for that is what it is. As time goes by you become more fluent in the language. Using the Applesoft Tutorial will accomplish this. The reference manual is a dictionary. If you have *worked* (not *read*) your way through the tutorial you must be reasonably fluent in the language.

However, that does not mean you are going to sit down and write a brilliant program. Why? Because you have to be imaginative and create a new idea, or indulge in a little plagiarism and rework someone else's ideas.

You then have to work at it, hune it,

polishing it, and maybe rewriting the text completely.

In other words, it's like sitting down with a pen and writing an essay in whatever language you are fluent. At the end you've not only produced a fine piece of work but your fluency in the language has increased although you will always find somebody who is more fluent than yourself.

Mr Gazzard is already becoming more fluent because he has translated numerous instructions into simple English. He must realise that to become more so he has to read and re-read about different aspects of the language.

This brings me to a final point. The one aspect of the Basic language which is most frightening to all who are not used to it is the PEEK, and even more so, the POKE. You can do absolutely no harm to your computer, your program or yourself by PEEKing various locations. I urge Mr Gazzard to do so, to re-read the PEEK and POKE introduction and to generally have a hard night's work just puzzling out what's going on.

Read as many books and magazine articles as you can and continue playing with the machine. Read about a few POKES and try them out. They may well destroy a program in memory or maybe the disc operating system, but you cannot hurt the computer and you won't hurt a disc (especially if you leave the drive door open for safety.)

If it all fouls up, just switch off, wait a minute or so and switch on again. In another four weeks' time it would be useful if Mr Gazzard could compose an article for *Windfall* on the subject of the problems encountered by himself and friends, pointing out the solutions found to each problem. This could benefit the other "raw recruits" but mostly he won't believe what progress he's made. Another idea is to join a local user group and gain some fluency via conversing.

Welcome Windfall

I HAPPENED to have seen the letter in *Windfall*, March 1982 concerning the "&LOMEM:" utility by Neil Konzen (*The Apple Orchard* 1980) and Max Parrott's routine for splitting Applesoft programs into two parts just now, reviewing some back copies I'd ordered. Though more than half a year has already passed, I would be very glad if you could still send me a copy of them both.

I would also like to congratulate your team for producing such an excellent computer magazine, beginning just with the always very pleasing front cover!

It's a pity that in Switzerland we are looking too much to the United States and to publications coming from that country, so your magazine is hardly known, though coming from a much nearer region. For me it was really a windfall seeing accidentally one of your advertisements! — M. Häni, Branzistr.6, CH-8303 Basersdorf, Switzerland.

Earth defence

I HAVE experienced some problems in running the arcade game "Earth Defence" (*Windfall*, July 1982). They occur in the actual game itself. The introduction etc, and ending are perfect.

It is the actual firing and scoring location/sequence that is not appearing and running. And instead the end result is given ie: 0 Andraids have been shot down in 0 minutes/time etc.

I wonder if there can possibly be a fault in the printing of the program. If none are known or if you have not been notified of any mistake made by the programmer I

would appreciate any tips to rectify my problem. — **C. Geraghty, Durban, South Africa.**

● As far as we know no one has experienced any problem with the actual running of Earth Defence, so presumably (although it is difficult to say without seeing your listing) you have incorporated a typing error while putting it to memory.

The program has an ONERR GOTO 990 (line 120) which is used to print out the final score, and obviously you are ending up here prematurely.

The remedy is to temporarily make line 120 a REM statement and rerun the program. The Basic should now tell you where the errors are. When you have found them all, restore line 120 and play it again.

If you still have problems remove the GR command in line 1650 and line 2020 and try running the program with TRACE on. See if the correct line sequence is being obeyed. **Max Parrott**

Extra bass in Tempo

AFTER printing out the musical program Tempo, being very tempted to play music on my Apple, I discovered, after many moments of enjoyment, that the Catalog selection/menu Make Music Subroutine was slightly faulty.

After the program had successfully converted my personal musical program to Applesoft Basic, the problem soon came to light when I ran the Basic program.

Firstly it had a completely different "deep" sound to it, and secondly it soon ended with the "RETURN WITHOUT GOSUB error" message in line 14050 where, incidentally, the conversion program takes place.

I would gladly accept any advice or, if there was a misprint or any other mistake, I will soon pick it up in the following edition of Windfall. — **Charles Geraghty, Glenwood, Durban, South Africa.**

● I don't know where the "deep" sound came from on using the Make Music subroutine option. I have used this many times and it hasn't happened to me yet. (See program SCRAM in the December issue of Windfall.)

As for the RETURN WITHOUT GOSUB, this is because whenever subroutines are used at the top of a program END must be

included before reaching the subroutines. Otherwise when your program finishes it runs straight into the subroutine without being told to, hence in this case when reaching the RETURN in line 14050 it is a RETURN WITHOUT GOSUB. You could cure the problem therefore by adding the line 13900 END. **Michael Hambly**

Bug in the TASC compiler

I HAVE found a serious bug in the Microsoft TASC compiler for the Apple II. Alas it only seems to occur with large programs and is very unpredictable.

If you fail to declare a string before it is read in from a disc file using an INPUT statement, you might end up with a load of rubbish. Also if you assign a value to a string using its Ascii code this may get changed to something else half way through running your program, for example: `DS=CHR$(4)` might get changed to `CHR$(94)` or even "SL JRLWL".

I have contacted Microsoft who say that an update is now available from their UK office. The new version is 2.01 (the old one being 2.0). Their address is Microsoft, Birkbourn House, Gossoms End, Birkhamstead HP4 3LP.

They will send you a replacement if you send them your original master disc. — **David Bowles, London NW5.**

U-Term review

THERE were a number of inaccuracies and omissions in the recent review of our U-Term and I trust you will allow us to correct them.

Documentation was criticised for being scarce — although a similar review in Microdecision magazine said that our manual provided all the information really needed. The source listing of the U-Term Eprom is available on disc and I suggest that this was what your enthusiast reviewer missed. Of course printing it in every copy of the manual would have drastically increased the size of the manual but baffled most users.

Assuming that support by us was being criticised, I refuse any implication that we don't support our products. In fact as the only UK manufacturer reviewed I am quite

sure that our factory-direct support is superior to that offered through the various here today/gone tomorrow importers of cards from the USA.

Regarding software, I believe that to be really useful your reviewer should have covered standard packages available for 80 column use.

U-Term really scores here being compatible with word processors such as Wordstar, Applewriter II (the only one of the three to be so), Systematics Financial Controller, Ormbeta database and packages, Visicalc and many more. An 80 column card with no software to use it with is an expensive luxury.

I believe that magazines would only gain by giving the manufacturers the chance to review the reviews before going to press. Keep up the good work. — **Dr W.D. Unsworth, director, U-Microcomputers, Warrington.**

● Our reviewer Terry Thompson actually praises the card bought from you, and as it was the first 80 column card he had experienced we would assume his assessment of it is valid. Here is his reply to your letter:

If the source listing is on the disc, there is no mention of this fact in the documentation, and so I feel my criticism to be fair. When I discovered the problem with Pascal I immediately contacted U-Microcomputers direct.

I spoke to a number of people and was, at first, informed by them that the problem didn't exist. I managed to persuade them to the contrary, only to be told that there was no solution with any make of 80 column card.

However the Vision-80 and Videoterm cards do offer a solution to the Pascal problem and U-Microcomputers have, I believe, still to rectify this problem five months on.

From Dr Unsworth's comments, it would seem that he has never installed Wordstar (see Page 50) as the U-Term cannot be installed without special knowledge. Secondly, Wordstar was designed to work best with inverse characters, which are not available in CP/M with the U-Term, but are available on the other terminals, although at extra cost on the Videx.

The other two cards also have an 80 column expansion for Visicalc, but I have not seen this feature on the U-Term.

Applewriter II and the other software are available working on the Vision-80 as is Magic Wand with most working with the Videx.

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By NICK LEVY
Principal,
Interface Management

Are you aware that profitability and li-

First because, whereas companies must by law prepare profit and loss accounts and balance sheets, there is no

1. Cashflow from operations.
2. Capital cashflow.
3. Financial cashflow.

Exhibit II is the operational cash flow statement. Row 73, which is one showing the monthly profits, is not the same as

	1980	1981	1982	1983
1 100 TO DEAN-BORN BAKETTES AND				
2 CASH-FLOW STATEMENTS FOR 1980				
3 EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND ANALYSIS.				
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Exhibit 1

row 83, which shows the monthly cash-flow arising from those profits.

Exhibit II shows to what an extent the cashflow is trailing behind the paper profits. Observe the shaded areas: Who would have thought from just looking at the figures that on the month when the profits are approaching their peak (July), the company has to pay out more money than the amount coming in.

What determines the cashflow and why does it lag behind profits? The answer depends on the parameters applicable to your company. So let's look at these parameters and also see to what an extent they can be changed or controlled by your company.

The cashflow parameters appear as a block in Exhibit II ranging from cell A36 to K58. According to the entry in cell D42, 35 per cent of the company monthly sales will be paid in cash during the same month on which the sale was made.

The cash for 50 per cent of what the company sells every month will be received one month in arrears (cell D46), and the cash for 12 per cent of any monthly sales will be received two months in arrears. In other words the cash inflow on any particular month will consist of 35 per cent of the value of that month's sale, 50 per cent of the previous month sales and 12 per cent of the sales made during the previous two months.

These figures assume that the recovery of the cash for 3 per cent of the monthly sales could take a long time. Generally speaking there is very little a company can do with regard to significantly improving on these cashflow parameters. On the other hand if the company does not watch these parameters they can easily deteriorate, to the detriment of the company.

The remaining cashflow parameters contain elements over which the company can exercise a certain amount of control. As you can see, 75 per cent of what the company buys (including the cost of labour) is paid for within the same month as the purchase was made (see cell J39), 20 per cent is paid for a month later (see cell J45), and the remaining 5 per cent two months later (see cell J50).

In other words, the company makes

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
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2			1980	1980												
3			NOV	DEC												
4			NOV	DEC												
5			STATE	SALES												
6																
7			SALES	42000	45000											
8			COST	40000	44000											
9			SELL. EXPEN.	5000	6000											
10			GEN. EXPEN.	4500	5000											
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Exhibit II

every month cash payments for 75 per cent of its purchases during the current month, 20 per cent of the purchases made on the previous month and 5 per cent of

the purchases made two months ago.

Now let's see what would happen if we change some of these parameters. Assuming we cannot influence the rate at

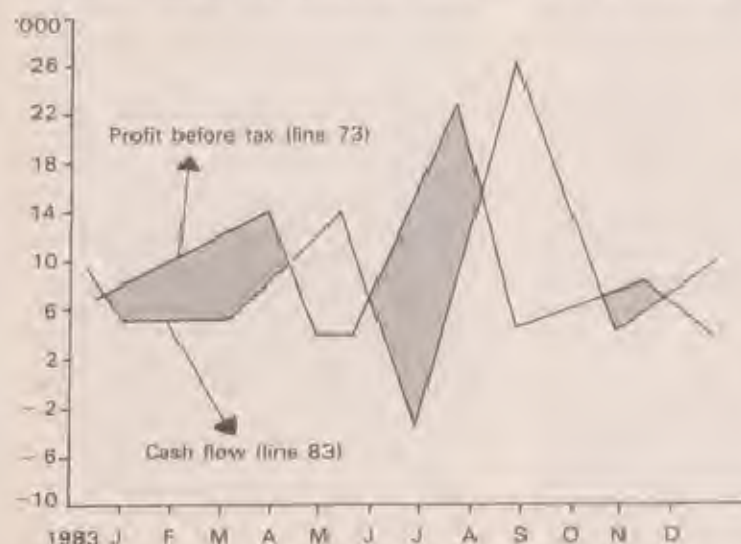


Exhibit III

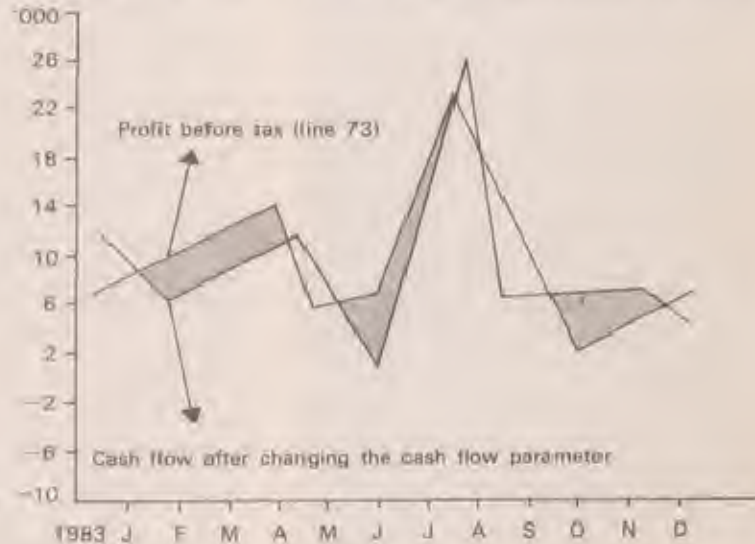


Exhibit IV

which money comes in, but we can control the rate of cash outflow, let's change the entries in cells J39, J45 and J50 to 40, 35 and 25 respectively. The results will be reflected in Exhibit IV, which shows narrower gaps between profits and cashflow compared to Exhibit III.

Remember that by themselves the cash flow calculations (row 83) as well as Exhibit III and IV could be misleading, because they do not include any cash flows of a capital nature (arising for example from changes in the level of stock holding), nor do they show the financial cash flows (e.g. corporation tax - if at all paid by the company - or the receipt or payments of interest and dividends).

Next month we shall propose a Visicalc template showing how the combined results of our three streams of cash flow forecast should be presented. In the meantime let's look at some of the formulae used in this month's operational cash flow template (Exhibit II).

Exhibit II is designed so that when you load it for the first time your screen will look like Exhibit V. This is in order to hide the forecast from any unauthorised person loading it and looking at the figures. If such a person knows his way around Visicalc, and provided that he is given the time to explore the unreadable spread sheet, he or she could find a way to restore the figures into all those cells showing >>>>>>.

How was that done? First we format the following cell into graphic mode using the command /F*: P48, D60, F53, F54, F55, F56 and F57. Next we enter the following figures and formulae in their respective cells:

In P48 enter .0123 or any other number less than 1 which you would like to use as a secret code number. Note that after you have entered your secret code number the cell appears blank.

In F53 enter 825945 or any figure which represents your total annual sales. Do not be surprised to see the results of your entry looking like this: *****. In F54 enter 70 or any figure which represents the weighted average percentage of the cost of goods sold by your total direct organisation (in other words, express your cost as a percentage of the annual sales.)

In F55 enter @SUM(B35...D47), and in F56 @SUM(D49...D59). In F57 enter 45, or whatever is the appropriate effective corporation tax for your organisation. Note that all your figures will come out as a series of *****.

In view of the size of the model it would be a good idea to format it to cell width of seven characters. So enter /GC7. Next format cell J53 to integer (/FI) and enter the following formula: @IF(D60 = P48,F53,1000000000).

The formulae compares the entry in cell D60 with the entry in cell P48 - where you put your secret code number. If the entries in both cells are identical the formulae will copy the value hidden behind the ***** in cell F53. If they are not identical the formulae will write the number 1000000000. But the size of cell J53 is too small to contain 1000000000, so instead you get a display of

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
41	ENTER SECRET CODE															
42	NEW PRESS	*****														
43																
44	THEORETICAL AND															
45	CASH FLOW FORECAST	TOTAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
46	SALES	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
47	COST OF GOODS SOLD	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
48																
49	GROSS PROFIT	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
50	SELLING EXPENSES	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
51	GENERAL EXPENSES	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
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53	PROFIT BEFORE TAX	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
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55	PROFIT FOR CORP. TAX	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
56																
57	NET INCOME AFTER TAX	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
58																
59	MONTHLY CASH-FLOW ANALYSIS															
60	CASH RECEIPTS	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
61	CASH PAYMENTS	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
62																
63	CASH-FLOW	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
64																

Exhibit V

>>>>>>>. As soon as you enter your secret code number in D60 cell J53 will display the value hidden in F53.

Next replicate that formula from J54 to J57 (all relative), and you can start to see how your secret code comes into operation. Always make sure that cell D60 is either blank or contains the wrong code number whenever you save the model or leave it unattended.

With the exception of the above formulae, the part of the model from row 22 to row 65 can be copied as shown in Exhibit II. Following are some of the key formulae used between row 66 and row

84. They should help you to complete the model. If you find that you cannot get on with that exercise, write to *Windfall* and ask for a complete listing of the January 1983 operational cash flow model, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Finally note that there is a cost item in Exhibit II which appears twice, and which should never be included in a cash flow statement. It was left there because its inclusion would not have a significant effect on the cash flow. Can you spot that cost item? If not it will all be revealed next month.

To be continued

D66:/FI+J5

E66:/FI+D66/E63/100. Replicate E66 from F66 to P66. I shall leave it to you to determine when to enter (R)elative and when (N)ot change.

D67:/FI+J54/100+E63

E67:/FI+J54/100+E66. Replicate E67 from F67 to P67.

Row 69 should be self explanatory.

D70:/FI+J55

E70:/FI+D70/E70UN3(E63...P63). Replicate E70 from F70 to P70.

D71:/FI+J56

E71:/FI+D71/E70UN3(E63...P63). Replicate E71 from F71 to P71.

D73:/FI+D69-D70-D71. Replicate from E73 to P73.

D75:/FI+J57/100+D73. Replicate from E75 to P75.

Row 77 should be self explanatory.

E80:/FI+D27+D50/100+D27+D46/100+(E66+D42/100)

F80:/FI+D25+D50/100+D66+D46/100+(F66+D42/100)

G80:/FI+E66+D50/100+(F66+D46/100)+(G66+D42/100). Replicate G80 from H80 to P80.

E81:/FI+D28+D29+D30+D50/100+D28+D29+D30+D45/100+(E67+E70+E71+J57/100)

F81:/FI+D28+D29+D30+D50/100+D67+E70+E71+J45/100+(F67+E70+E71+J39/100)

G81:/FI+E67+E70+E71+J50/100+(F67+E70+E71+J45/100)+(G67+E70+E71+J39/100).

Replicate G81 from H81 to P81.

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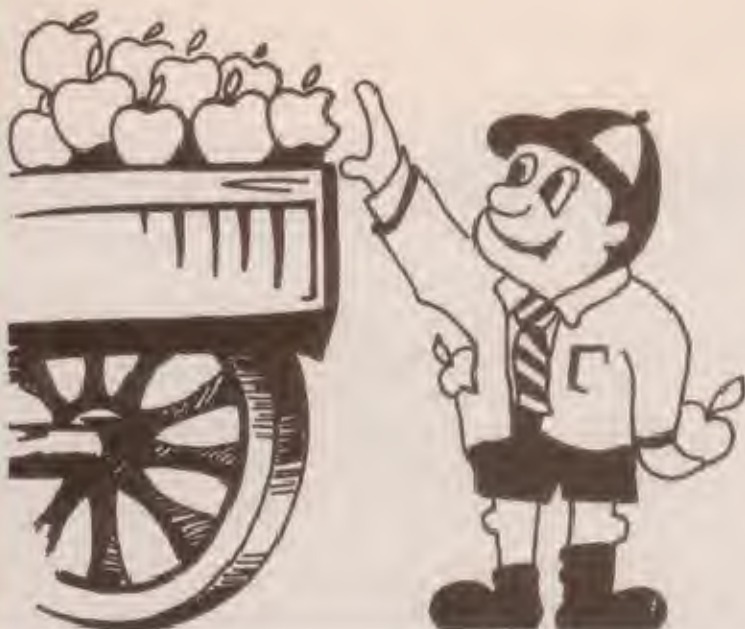


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Monthly review of
Apple in education

Pilot – a language for high flying teachers?

By BRIAN S.
RUSHTON

Department of
Biology,
New University
of Ulster

WITH the appearance of microcomputers in both schools and colleges, CAI (Computer Aided Instruction) is now becoming a distinct practical possibility. You know the sort of thing – sit Johnny down in front of a microcomputer and monitor, he switches it on, loads a tape or disc and is then presented with information which he works through at his own pace. The machine might ask Johnny questions and if successfully answered would lead him on to other delights; if wrongly answered then maybe a gentle reprimand, back to the basic information and ask him the question again. And so on.

If you have contemplated this approach and if you have tried to produce your own CAI lessons using one of the standard microcomputer languages such as Basic or Pascal you might well have come across several problems.

Using a standard language it is easy to put information on the screen. For example, a Basic program would use a series of PRINT statements so that as the program is run the information in the PRINT lines would be output to the screen. e.g.

```
10 PRINT "THIS IS A SAMPLE CAI  
PROGRAM"  
20 PRINT "TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO  
LEARN"  
30 PRINT "SOMETHING ABOUT THE PILOT  
LANGUAGE"  
etc.
```

All the information contained in quote marks would be output to the screen when the student runs the program. Simple so far, but from then on it gets much more difficult. If, for example, you want the student to interact with the machine – to give the machine answers to questions which if right causes more of the program to be executed or if

wrong for part of the program to be repeated – then Basic cannot cope easily with this. At best Basic would be cumbersome; at worst it might be impossible.

Difficulties would certainly arise when in answer to the question "How many legs has a donkey" a student answers 4 while another student answers Four. Basic cannot easily handle graphics displays, and many microcomputers do not allow for graphic and extensive textual information to be combined on the same screen display – unfortunate since much science is presented in this form. And there is nothing more boring than screen after screen of text with no visual break.

To the aid of teachers comes Pilot (Programmed Inquiry, Learning or Teaching), a computer language developed specifically for the production of computer-assisted lessons. It was developed in the late '60s and the original language had only eight basic instructions. However, it has been considerably revised since the original and is now a language with a wide range of different instructions, but remains in essence a simple language to learn and use. You can write relatively sophisticated lessons using only five commands: Text, Accept, Match, Jump and End – but more of these later.

Pilot is available for several microcomputers – the one we have been testing at NUU and the one on which the following is based is for Apple II machines – Apple Pilot. The package consists of two manuals, an editor's manual and a language reference manual, together with an author disc and a lesson disc.

The former is used by the teacher to prepare and test lessons using the Pilot language on the disc.

The lesson disc stores the created lesson and is the one ultimately used by the student. To write lessons using the author and lesson discs requires two disc drives; for the student to run the lesson, only one disc drive is necessary. The lesson disc is copyable. This provides a means of disseminating lessons to other users without the need for every user to have the Pilot package – therefore if you have produced a good, workable, interesting lesson you could mass produce it, sell it and help swell the school funds.

So how do you actually write lessons? The author disc has available four editors. The lesson text editor is the one that actually creates the lesson; the other three editors produce special facilities that the lesson text editor uses. The three are the graphics editor, character set editor and sound effects editor. Using the lesson text editor the author prepares his lesson. Generally, this takes the following form:

Give the student some information



Test his/her comprehension



If student performs satisfactorily in the test then go on to give him/her more information. If the student does not perform satisfactorily then either repeat the information or give him/her the information in another form or give him/her an electric shock to improve his/her concentration (!)

There are three basic types of instruction which carry out this lesson program:

- ☐ Text instruction
- ☐ Response instructions
- ☐ Control instructions

The text instruction allows information to be displayed on the screen when the lesson is run. They are preceded in the program by T:. There are two important response instructions – ACCEPT, abbreviated to A:, in the program and MATCH, abbreviated to M:. When the lesson is run the computer waits at an ACCEPT instruction until the student has typed in an answer. A MATCH instruction in a lesson causes the computer to match whether the answer given by the student is an acceptable answer – it matches the answer given to the correct one. There are two important control instructions. END, abbreviated to E: is used to signify the end of a lesson, and JUMP, J:.

The latter causes the computer to JUMP through the program to a particular point, usually depending on the outcome of the student's answer. Thus in our example above, if the student's answer were correct then the computer needs to JUMP to new information in the program; conversely, if incorrect, then the computer needs to JUMP back to repeat old information.

The JUMPS are made to pieces of program identified by LABELS. A LABEL in the program consists of an asterisk followed by a name for that bit of program, e.g. *CORE. The JUMP instruction is a means of creating branches in the program and is, of course, the equivalent of GOTOs or GOSUBs in Basic.

If all this is somewhat baffling, perhaps a sample trivial program might help. But before that, could I add one complicating factor – many of the simple

instructions can be altered by conditioners. The following program has a conditioner with the JUMP instruction, a Y or N. These are set by the MATCH instruction. JN: causes a JUMP if the MATCH was incorrect (i.e. the student got the wrong answer), JY: causes a JUMP if the MATCH was correct (i.e. the student got it right!).

In the former case, if the student had got the answer right, then no JUMP would have been executed and the program would continue to the next statement. In the latter case, if the student had got the answer wrong, then no JUMP would have been executed and again the program would continue to the next statement.

A sample program lesson is shown below.

The Pilot lesson program

R: A lesson about flowers

T: Hello! Today we are going to learn
T: something about flower structure.

W:

*FLOWER

G: ES

T: A flower is usually composed of four
T: distinct parts: the calyx, corolla,
T: androecium and gynoecium. The
T: calyx is usually a protective covering
T: which surrounds the more delicate
T: inner structures. The corolla com-
T: prises the petals, the androecium
T: the stamens, and the gynoecium the
T: carpels.
T: From your knowledge of the Greek
T: origin of words, which part of the
T: flower do you think is the male?

A:

M: Androecium
JN: FLOWER

*COROL
G: ES

Comments

This represents a comment or remark statement which is ignored by the computer and is inserted to remind the author of program structure.

Text displayed on the screen when the program is run. A pause of 10 seconds while the student reads the introduction. This provides a label for the part of the program which follows. It is not output to the screen.

Clears the screen.

Text displayed on the screen ending with a question which the student is expected to answer.

Accepts the answer from the student.

Did the student type Androecium? If the student did not type Androecium then the program jumps to the section labelled FLOWER and the text about flower structure is repeated ending with the same question. Otherwise (i.e. if he did type the correct answer) continue on to the next bit of information, labelled COROL. Note that this simple program example demands an upper case A followed by lower case letters in the answer. Apple Pilot provides control options to overcome this kind of problem.

Another label. Clears the screen.

T: The number of petals and their arrangement within the corolla are very variable. For example, a Buttercup flower usually has 5 petals all of similar size and shape. Petals of the Whin flower are also 5 in number but are of different size and shape. Some flowers have more petals, e.g. Purple loosestrife while some have only two, e.g. Enchanters nightshade.

T: From what you know of the petals of Buttercups would you expect the flower to be relatively symmetrical in shape?

A:
M: Yes
JY: ANDRO

T: No!!! Think about this. If all the petals were all the same size and shape then they would probably be symmetrically arranged.

*ANDRO
↓
etc.

E:

More text again ending with a question.

*Accepts the answer
Did the student type 'Yes'?
If the student gets the question right, then the program jumps to the section labelled ANDRO. If wrong, then in this case there is no jump instruction and therefore instead of repeating the information a reprimand is given in the next text statement and the lesson also passes on to the ANDRO section.*

Text only displayed if the previous question was incorrectly answered.

Another label

The end instruction.

The lesson text editor allows complex branching and question/answer sessions to be built up from relatively simple instructions like these. One useful feature is that multiple answers are available in MATCH statements. Thus:

M: Calyx 1 calyx would 'capture' the student who capitalised the first letter and the one who did not. Similarly

M: YES! YEP! YEAH! QUI! Y would allow for five different but equally correct answers. The 'I' is the equivalent of 'OR'. The MATCH instruction can become more complex - you can have multiple answers using the & sign and a 'wild card' or 'joker card' to trap spelling mistakes, such as:

M: B*C*CLE would trap mis-spellings of bicycle (or is it bycycle?).

Of course the lesson text editor only allows for text. However, Apple Pilot also has special instructions which allows the lesson to call files created by the three other editors. Suppose you wanted to display a Whin flower in the above lesson. Using the graphics editor you could easily construct a labelled diagram on the screen and save this in a file called WHIN. The program could then contain two extra ins-

tructions:

G:ES This clears or erases the screen
GX:WHIN Causes the program to call the file WHIN and draw the flower on the screen. Suppose you wanted to precede this drawing with a merry little jingle - Ring around the Roses? Then using the sound effects editor a file can be created containing the notes of the tune which when executed in the program will play it back. You don't need to be a Bach or Lennon to do this either. You can reduce sheet music to a series of letters and numbers! Our program would now contain one extra instruction:

SX:ROSES Plays Ring around the Roses composed by the SOUND EFFECTS EDITOR and stored in a file called ROSES

G:ES
GX:WHIN

The remaining editor, the character set editor, is perhaps potentially much more useful. It allows a user to define his own set of characters which can be called from within a program e.g. π , Σ , \neq , various chemical formulae - OH groups etc., or even small pictures that may be required over and over again. These can be included in the character set and used whenever required in the program.

There are many other facilities in the language which cannot be dealt with in a short review like this. However, one further feature should be mentioned - it concerns file handling from within a running program. One expected feature of CAI is that the teacher should be able to monitor a student's progress. A way of accomplishing this would be to record the student's name and the responses he makes to questions on a file on the lesson disc as he uses the lesson. This 'hidden' information can then be accessed by the teacher at a later date and the student's work evaluated. Apple Pilot easily performs this.

The language is also able to deal with conventional numeric and string variables - interestingly these are relegated to the 'Advanced Programming Techniques' section of the manual.

So that's it. What does it cost? - current prices range from £75 to £85 but you must have an Apple II 48k with two disc drives and DOS 3.3. There is also an animations package available (about £40) for use with Apple Pilot (animated Buttercup flowers?) but as yet I have no experience of it and cannot comment.

So what are the disadvantages? There are several associated with CAI *per se* - time commitment to preparing lessons, updating, lack of machines - but these have been aired elsewhere. So far, there appear to be only two problems with Apple Pilot itself - editing is cumbersome compared with Basic, but is probably largely a question of practice. Disc wear might also be a medium term problem since the author disc and in particular the lesson disc are fairly heavily worked. ■

This series by SEAN OVEREND takes the lid off assembly language and machine code programming, by describing the purpose and structure of a sophisticated assembler written in Basic.

ASSEMBLER LANGUAGE-II

So this is what it's all about..

AN assembler allows the programmer to use readily understandable instructions as source code, which is then "assembled" into object code. Assembly language consists of lines containing symbolic labels, mnemonics for opcodes, and operands written in a conventional way (which specifies the addressing mode), allowing for the use of the symbolic labels, as well as purely numeric addresses.

The level of abstraction afforded by an assembler can be illustrated by analogy with instructions to a painter. Each of the painter's possible jobs has been placed in a list, and each has been given a number. Figure 1 shows part of such a list. (Thus the order to paint a front door appears as number 13 on the list). Figure 2 shows the house numbers of part of the estate.

There are three ways of telling the painter to paint the front door of house number 5:

13 5;

PFD 5 (using the mnemonic PFD instead of the list number 13); and
PFD Whiteacre (specifying the name of the house instead of its number).

As a further variation, an instruction to paint the hall of number 4 could be given as PH Whiteacre-1 or PH Applegarth+2.

Similar levels of abstraction can be used to describe 6502 operations and addresses in assembly language.

Each line of assembly language program contains the same information as the machine code equivalent of one machine code opcode and its related operands (if any). The general format of an assembly language line is shown in Figure 3.

Features of assembly language

Apart from the advantage of being able to use the mnemonic - and therefore memorable - opcodes (e.g. STA = Store Accumulator contents in memory, LDY =

NR	INSTRUCTION	MNEMONIC
12	Paint back door	PBD
13	Paint front door	PFD
14	Paint hall	PH

Figure 1

Load the Y register) the main features of assembly language relate to the manner of expressing an address.

Numeric addresses

Memory addresses can be referred to numerically, and 10, \$A and %1010 all mean the same thing in decimal, hexadecimal and binary. The precise method of distinguishing each numeric base varies according to the particular assembler. Generally it should be possible to dispense with leading zeros, the only assumption being that the number in question is right-justified.

The assembler should also calculate whether the binary numeric representation of the address (not the contents) can itself be stored in one byte of memory. If it can, then the address is within the "zero-page" of memory.

Address number 255 (decimal) is the highest "zero-page" address. This becomes obvious when converted into hexadecimal (\$FF), as any higher address

1	2	3	4	5
APPLE GARTH				WHITE ACRE

Figure 2

requires more than eight binary bits to store it in.

Symbolic addresses (labels)

Addresses can also be represented as symbols by "labels", or "identifiers". The great advantage of this is that the programmer can assign a numeric value to a label, knowing that the assembler will substitute the correct numeric address whenever the label is encountered in the source code. There are two ways of assigning a numeric value to a label:

(a) By stipulating its value, directly. Many assemblers use the "pseudo-opcode" EQU for this purpose, e.g.:

Label	Opcode	Operand
SPEAK	EQU	49200

This line is an instruction to the assembler to associate the address 49200 (decimal, or hexadecimal \$C030) with the label SPEAK when assembling the source code. The address is that of the Apple speaker switch). A subsequent line such as:

LDA SPEAK

means "load the accumulator with the contents of the address 49200". (See Reference Manual p.20 for the effect this will have.) The assembler translates this as:

Opcode	Operand
AD	30 C0

(Addresses which require two bytes to contain them are always presented to the 6502 in lo-byte, hi-byte order.)

EQU is a "pseudo-opcode" because it merely defines the address of the label associated with it, despite appearing in the opcode position (or "field") of the assembly language line. It does not specify a 6502 operation, as does a true assembly language opcode.

(b) By assigning a value to the label in-

Assembly language format

LINE NR.	LABEL	OPCODE	OPERAND	COMMENT												
<p>Line number: Used solely to facilitate input/editing of source code. Interactive assemblers allow commands such as LIST, PRINT, ASSEMBLE, END</p> <p>Label: May be omitted. The characteristics of the assembler will dictate maximum length and whether alpha/numeric characters allowed</p> <p>Opcode: One of the 50 assembly language opcodes that specify the type of 6502 operation alternatively, a pseudo opcode such as EQU, DW, DFB, ASC or =</p> <p>Operand: Addressing modes are implicit from the format:-</p> <table> <tr> <td>absolute</td> <td>no preceding #</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>no ()</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>no .</td> </tr> <tr> <td>indexed</td> <td>contains</td> </tr> <tr> <td>indirect</td> <td>contains ()</td> </tr> <tr> <td>immediate</td> <td>preceding #</td> </tr> </table> <p>Comment: Of the Comments after REM in BASIC. Some assemblers insist on a preceding ;</p>					absolute	no preceding #		no ()		no .	indexed	contains	indirect	contains ()	immediate	preceding #
absolute	no preceding #															
	no ()															
	no .															
indexed	contains															
indirect	contains ()															
immediate	preceding #															

Figure 3

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directly, as a matter of calculation. In the following example:-

```
Label Opcode Operand
START LDX    #FFF
```

the label START is associated not with a pseudo-opcode EQU, but with the opcode LDX. The assembler translates LDX #FFF into its machine code equivalent A2 FF, and also works out what address to associate with START.

If the machine code operand A2 was located in memory address 769 (decimal, or \$0301), any subsequent reference to START in the source code would result in its conversion to the hexadecimal equivalent of 769. If the next line of assembly language was:

```
Opcode Operand
JMP    START
```

this would become

```
4C    01 03
```

(again remembering the inversion of two byte machine code numeric addresses). Figure 4 shows the two lines side by side, in assembly language and in machine code.

Arithmetic feature

Most assemblers allow simple arithmetic operations on labels to identify labels displaced from the named address by the amount of the offset. Replace the second assembly language line in figure 4 with:

```
JMP    START+1
```

and the assembler will translate it to:

```
4C    02 03
```

because START is given the address

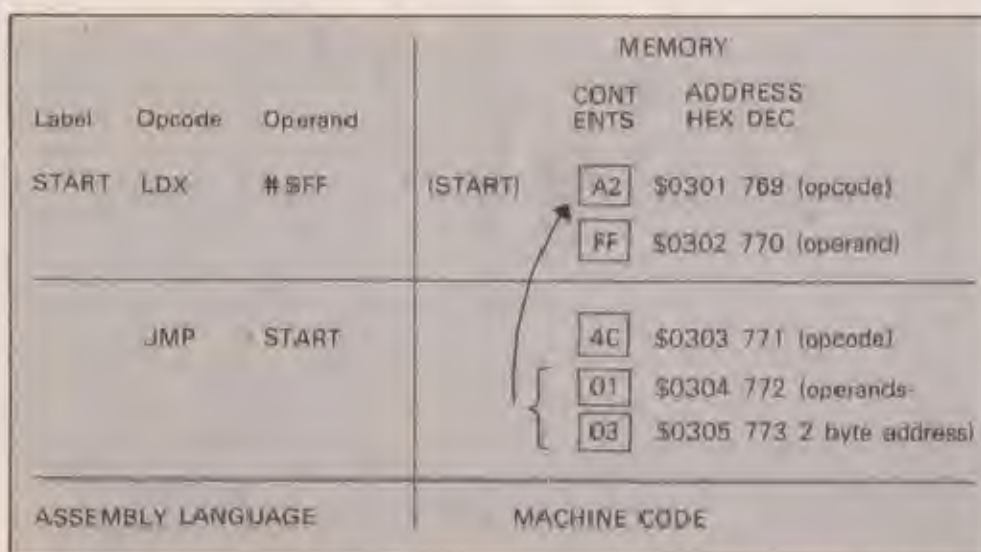


Figure 4

\$0301, to which 1 is to be added, making \$0302.

Summary

Assembly language can be defined as a series of lines of source code, each of which corresponds with one machine code opcode and its related operands (if any). A line of assembly language has five fields, two of which can be empty (the label and the comment fields), and at least one of which can be used for additional purposes, e.g. the pseudo-opcode.

Recommended reading: Zaks, Programming the 6502, pp 356-362.

The author's interactive two pass, disc-based editor-assembler is too long to

publish in the series. Copies of the assembler may be obtained from the author in either Basic or compiled code (the latter being considerably faster in execution). Disc price £20, inclusive p&p (48k DOS 3.3 Applesoft firmware only).

Alternatively, send your own initialised disc and £15 handling charge. Specify whether Basic or compiled version required to Sean Overend, 22 Highland Road, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9AX.

If you have access to the Tasc Compiler, full instructions for compiling the Basic version are given.)

● Next month's article covers the assembly process and its fundamental structure and looks at input editing and assembled output.

Your Apple questions answered

HOW can I get text to appear on the graphics page?

One way is to use the hi-res character generator from the DOS 3.3 toolkit or use shape tables (slower).

WHY does TRACE not work with DOS commands?

All DOS commands must be preceded by a RETURN, so to make TRACE work put a CHR\$(13) into your DOS command (ie PRINT CHR\$(13); CHR\$(4); "OPEN FILE") OR DS = CHR\$(13) + CHR\$(4) : PRINT DS "OPEN FILE".

WHY do GET statements not work with DOS commands?

This is similar to the last question. GET commands do not have a return on the end, therefore it must be added. Use the example from the last question.

HOW can I tab over 40 characters on my printer?

You cannot use the TAB command. The command to use is POKE 36,X (where X = the number of spaces that you want to tab.)

WHY am I getting an "OUT OF MEMORY" error when there is plenty of memory space left?

If you are getting OUT OF MEMORY errors that are not caused by running out of space the cause is a stack overflow. There are six things that cause this:

Too many FOR NEXT loops; too many GOSUBS; excessively complex mathematical or string functions; GOSUBS with no RETURN; improper recovery in ONERR GOTO routines; calls or interrupts that do not restore the stack.

These effects are cumulative and a stack overflow can be the result of two or three of them.

THERE is a program on the system master disc called 'INTBASIC'. Why can I not use it?

This is a file that the HELLO program loads into a language card if there is one present in the system. If there is no language card present this file is not used.

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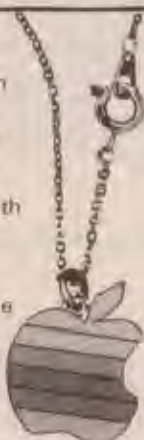
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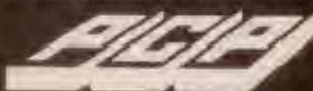
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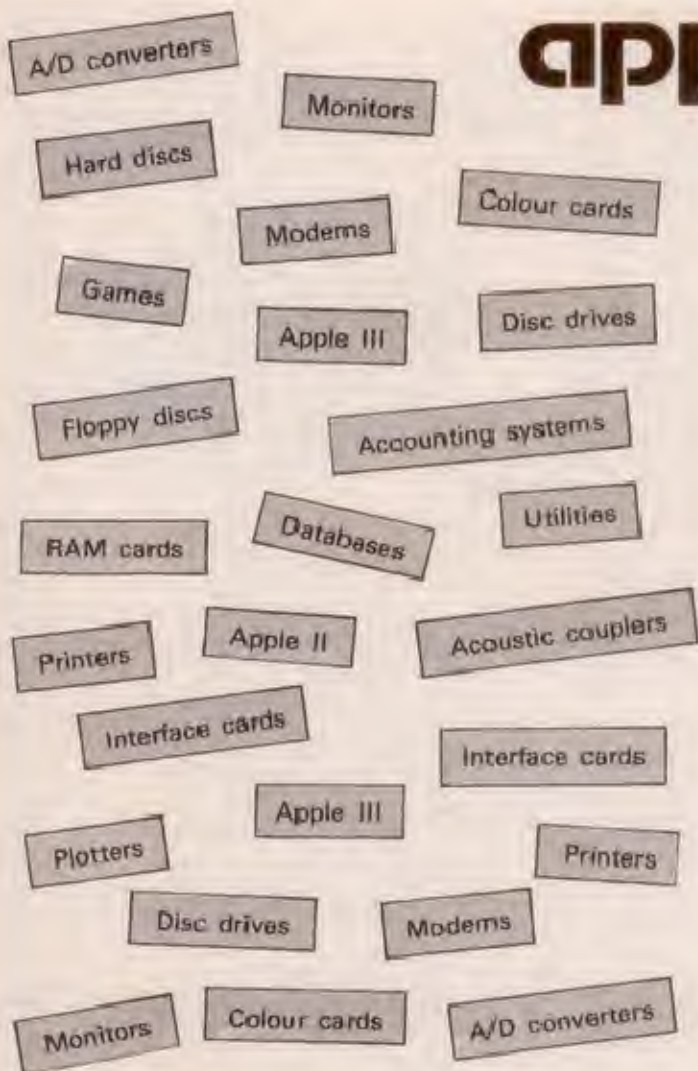
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